

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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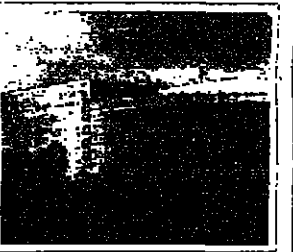
Interview:
Mamdouh
Salameh on
OPEC

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WorldPaper
Native
Disputes

Pages 7 to 10



Les défis du
monde arabe
à Paris

Jourdain Page 13



Weather
Outlook

Unusually hot, dusty
and hazy weather will
continue throughout
the Kingdom for the
coming week, the
Meteorological Department
reported.

Activities for
the week

● The French Embassy
is holding an exhibition of
French medical equip-
ment, organized by the
South of France Chamber
of Industry and Com-
merce, at the Philadelphia
Hotel, beginning Satur-
day. Eighteen firms will
participate. The exhibit
will run through 27 April.

Foreign Exchange
Wednesday, 20 April 1994

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7040	0.7060
£	1.0382	1.0434
DM	0.4118	0.4139
SFR	0.4860	0.4884
FRF	0.1202	0.1208
YEN (100)	0.6821	0.6855
DEL	0.3670	0.3677
LIT (100)	0.431	0.433

Israel rounds up Hamas activists as support for negotiations wains

By Victor Kremer
and agency reports

AMMAN, YABAD, Israeli-Occupied West Bank—Alarmed by a series of bloody attacks over the past two weeks, Israeli authorities have arrested hundreds of suspected Hamas activists in a sweep of the Occupied Territories.

The Israeli crackdown coincided with accusations by senior Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, that Jordan is providing Hamas with logistical support.

Jordanian reaction to the Israeli allegations was swift and unequivocal. At an impromptu press conference Saturday evening, His Majesty King Hussein rejected the Israeli claims as a propaganda stunt.

The purpose of these baseless allegations, the King told reporters, "is to tarnish the credibility of Jordan." He characterized the charges as "baseless and humiliating."

The King stressed Jordan's unwavering commitment to the decision taking at the 1974 Arab summit which recognized the

PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

King Hussein linked the Israeli claims with the ongoing siege of Aqaba. Both, he said, are aimed at pressuring Jordan for "ambiguous objectives."

In a separate statement, the Cabinet expressed its "astonishment and outrage at the sudden statements which point an accusing finger at Jordan."

The Cabinet statement noted that the Israeli accusation "reflects the impotence of the Israeli government" in handling the rising violence in the Occupied Territories.

Meanwhile, Hamas has repeated its vow to continue attacks against Israel. It called on all Arabs to avoid traveling on Israeli buses and "to stay away from places where many Israelis gather" in coming days "so they will not be hit in our upcoming operations."

At the same time Rabin and Peres were confronting Jordan, Israeli army and intelligence units were moving to arrest suspected Hamas members in raids from the Gaza Strip to the northern West Bank villages where

the suicide bombers lived.

Israeli forces arrested at least four youths in Yabad, the quiet mountainside village that was home to Ammar Amareh who blew himself up along with five Israelis on a packed commuter bus in Hadera a week ago.

More than a dozen other suspects were picked up in the nearby village of Kabatiya, which was home to Ra'ed Zakarneh, who, Israeli authorities say, drove a car packed with 160 kilograms of explosives, propane tanks and nails into a commuter bus in Afula on 6 April.

Israeli authorities reportedly arrested more than 400 suspected Hamas activists this week—more than half in the Gaza Strip and the remainder from the West Bank, particularly in the occupied Arab villages closest to Israel itself.

The arrests came after Israeli negotiators—who are attempting to complete an agreement on implementing a peace plan for Palestinian autonomy—said they would never agree to PLO demands that Israel release Hamas prisoners, along with those from other Palestinian factions.

Disillusionment with the peace process is spreading rapidly as the death toll in the Occupied Territories grows and the negotiations move ahead at a snail's pace. Support for the peace process in Jordan has never been strong, but recent events have brought it to an all-time low.

In the Palestinian refugee camp of Baqaa, north of Amman, disappointment with the negotiations is pervasive. Jamil, a van driver from Baqaa, believes force is the only language Israel understands. "People here expect the situation in the future will be worse. Our leaders just sit around and talk, but there is no peace," he told The Star.

"Of course I don't support the peace process," says Maher, a barber. "I am ready to fight the Israelis now. The way to liberate our land is by going back to our religion. Why? Because Palestine doesn't belong to the Palestinians themselves, but to all Muslims. Our God will ask us on Judgment Day, 'Why didn't you liberate your land?'"

Yusuf was trained as an English teacher but today works as a manual laborer. "The problem is not with the people, it is with our leaders. They are afraid for their chairs. I can't explain the wide gap between what we think and what they do."

Samir, a young man in his twenties, has no faith in Israel's sincerity in the negotiations. "How can we be sure that Israel will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho?" he asks. "It took them 10 years to leave Taba, and when they did they took everything, even the hotel."

"I've heard from people from Gaza that the Israelis haven't left. They just moved their bases a few meters. How can we trust them?" he wonders.



The Dome glitters under Jerusalem's skies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — In the shadow of the lustrous gold Dome of the Rock, a small clutch of television technicians huddled next to a satellite truck Monday, beaming silent images of the imposing edifice into the crystal blue sky.

It was a historic moment for the ancient shrine, Islam's third-holiest and a landmark of Jerusalem, which has been given a refurbished dome covered with plated gold, financed personally by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. The \$8.25 million restoration of the dome was formally dedicated Monday.

At the Amman ceremony marking completion of the 18-month-long restoration, King Hussein gave a speech standing in front of a cardboard replica of the Dome of the Rock. And in the shops and small restaurants in the Muslim quarter of the Old City, King Hussein was monitored in scratchy radio broadcasts.

King Hussein, who sold off part of his personal fortune to finance the renovation, declared that any peace agreement with Israel would have to restore Arab sovereignty to East-Jerusalem, which Israel captured in 1967. "We say no to any peace formula that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem so that the whole city would eventually become a token and symbol of peace for all the faithful children of Abraham," King Hussein said.

Jerusalem is the cultural, religious and economic hub for nearly 2 million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but few of them could visit the Dome of the Rock Monday. Israel has sealed off the Occupied Territories, barring most Arab residents from entering Jerusalem, following a series of violent attacks on Israeli buses.

"There are checkpoints everywhere, and people can't leave their homes," said Khairi Dajani, a translator for the Islamic Waqf, the religious council that supervises the shrine. "On ordinary days there are hundreds of people here. But the Palestinians are not allowed to enter Jerusalem now."

The eight-sided dome, surrounded by glazed blue tiles, was completed in 691 by the Umayyad Caliph, Abdal Malik. The site includes the stone where it is said that Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac many centuries before.

In recent years, the dome, last restored in 1956 with an aluminum roof, was leaking. The restoration by a Belfast-based firm required nearly 200 pounds of gold leaf, which was electroplated onto brass sheets in one of the largest such operations ever attempted. The gold finish is matte, not glossy, to avoid blinding reflection. (For more coverage, see pages 4 and 5.)

Christopher to bring 'suggestions' to ease Aqaba blockade

By Ben Wedeman
Special to The Star

US SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher will "be bringing some suggestions for an easing" of the siege of Aqaba. Christopher, speaking at a satellite link news conference Wednesday, described Jordanian-US relations as "excellent," and indicated he expects the peace process to make progress.

Christopher will be travelling to the Middle East next week, and is expected to speak with officials in Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Israel. He described his trip as "routine," and cautioned against expectations of a breakthrough in the peace process.

"I look forward to meeting King Hussein some place during the course of this trip," Christopher said. He acknowledged "problems with respect to the situation in the port of Aqaba, but I hope to be bringing some suggestions for an easing of that prob-



lem." The US understands "that the Iraqi sanctions have imposed a considerable burden on Jordan and we would like to find a way

to ease that burden, and I'll be talking with the King about that, but I would emphasize that I think that the relationship between our two countries is excellent now."

Christopher was taking questions from journalists in Amman, east and west Jerusalem, Beirut, Cairo and Damascus.

Prior to responding to questions, Christopher appealed for continued faith in the peace process. "We must not permit the extremists to throw this important process off track. It is a time when the other bilateral tracks need to make some progress."

Continued on page 2

Desecration in the Holy Land

By Hamdan Al Haj
Special to The Star

ISRAELIS HAVE confiscated and profaned countless Muslim shrines and properties in the 1948 territories, according to Sheikh Raed Salah, mayor of Taybeh, a town near the Sea of Galilee. In an interview with The Star, Sheikh Salah decried Israel's callous attitude toward Islamic sites. "Muslim cemeteries have been bulldozed, and mosques have been converted into souvenir shops, bars and alcohol stores," he said. Sheikh Salah was in Amman to attend the ceremony marking the completion of restoration of the Dome of the Rock. "Would a Jew accept to have his synagogue converted into a cattle pen?" Sheikh Salah asked. He reviewed a long list of mosques that were converted into synagogues, or others which have been converted into restaurants, pubs, liquor shops, stores, museums and art galleries. "When a Jewish tomb is violated anywhere on earth, the Jews are not silent for one moment," he said. Pointing to the experience of Safed, Sheikh Salah told The Star Jews have taken possession of and renovated scores of Muslim shrines, giving them Jewish names. These properties, said Sheikh Salah, should be returned to their original Muslim owners, many of whom, he noted, are still living in Palestine. "Don't Muslims have the right to maintain and preserve their endowments?" he asked.

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelphia Insurance 4.99 Delta Insurance 4.88 National Steel Industries 3.16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Precast Concrete 6.06 Jordan Int'l. Trade Center 5.08 Philadelphia Insurance 4.96 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan-Kawati Food & Ag. 3.49 Jordan Ind. Materials 3.46 Nimri Clothing 3.45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irbid Electricity 5.15 Jordan Int'l. Trade Center 4.72 Livestock and Poultry 3.45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Precast Concrete 5.71 Vehicle Owners Fed. 5.03 Livestock and Poultry 4.96 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock and Poultry 3.48 Jordan Phosphate Mines 3.45 Business Bank 2.44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Chemical Detergents 5.00 Universal Insurance 4.98 Public Mining 4.76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Diversified Ind. 3.26 Universal Insurance 3.14 National Textiles 3.03
General Price Pointer 157,550	158,250	158,280	156,240
Trade Volume JD239,454	JD 1129,877	JD 2330,228	JD 836,664
Stock Volume 693,770	394,370	712,475	277,745
Highest Traded Stocks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelphia Insurance JD 324,343 Jordan National Bank JD 193,468 Jordan National Bank JD 419,698 Jordan Islamic Bank JD 141,292 			

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Ministry to issue regulations for tourism sector, Udwan

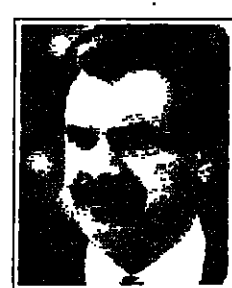
AMMAN (Star)—Minister of Tourism Mr Mohammad Afshar Al Udwan said the Government is committed to its privatization policy, especially in the tourism sector. He told members of the Amman SKAL Club Wednesday that the Government is working to revive the tourism sector and put an end to the clash of interests within Government departments and between these departments and the private sector. But he added that it is the responsibility of the Government and the private sector to work together to reform the tourism sector, which he predicted will become a major source of foreign income for the national economy in the coming years.

At the Club's monthly luncheon, held at the Regency Palace Hotel, Mr Udwan said his ministry is pushing to issue a number of regulations that would regulate the various tourism-related businesses. He added while the 1988 Tourism Law is a good one, additional regulations and "tools" are needed to make it work. He said the ministry is planning to issue regulations for hotels, tourist guides, tourist transport and tourist operators and agents.

Mr Udwan said that the private sector will be involved in drafting these regulations, which will stay in effect until a new law for tourism is passed.

Mr Udwan said he is proposing to the Government to set up regional authorities for Petra and the Dead Sea to regulate tourism investments and organization in these areas. He added that the present infrastructure in these sites is not adequate to meet the

Udwan



World Report



De Klerk
runs race he
knows he
can't win

By Paul Taylor

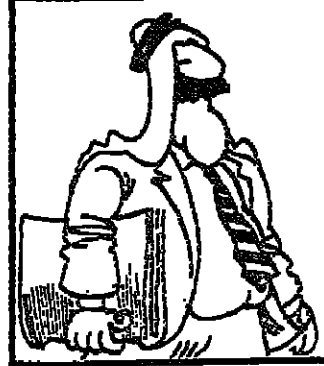
SOWETO, South Africa — Behind him was a giant banner that read: "We made the change." In front of him was a racially mixed crowd of blacks, whites and Indians. There wasn't a heckler in the hall, and President Frederik de Klerk was in high spirits.

"I hope the television cameras will pan over this audience and show the country tonight what the new National Party looks like," he said, beaming from the stage of a giant exhibition hall.

Saturday's rally was one of the few high spots along a bumpy campaign trail for the *stuurman* de Klerk, who has been waging a dignified abdication for the past four months, disguised as a bid for re-election.

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2



JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Dr Marwan Al Asmar



Nabih Berri visits Jordan

His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Mr Nabih Berri and an accompanying delegation, who completed a five-day visit to the country Thursday. The King told Mr Berri that it was important for leaders from the executive and legislative branches of government to meet to increase their common bond. Mr Berri's visit to this country was described by observers as important since Lebanon is one of the parties to the peace negotiations. The King said that it was essential for the parties to the talks with Israel to continue to coordinate with each other. Mr Berri said that the Lebanese people thanked His Majesty for his positions towards Lebanon and Arab issues. Mr Berri who was in the country at the invitation of Speaker of the Lower Mr Taher Al Masri, also met Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali who reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Mr Berri said that his country's main concern is to establish security, stability and to rebuild his war-torn country. During his stay Mr Berri also met with Speaker of the Upper House Mr Ahmed Al Lawzi. The King conferred upon Mr Berri the Al Nahda medal of the First Order.

Extra \$3.4 for Jordan

The US is to give Jordan an extra \$3.4 million in aid through two amended agreements. The Minister of Planning Dr Zaid Fareez signed for the Jordanian side, while for the Americans it was the newly appointed US Ambassador to Jordan Mr Wesley W Egan and the US Agency International Development Director Mr William T. Oliver. The amendment signed to the Technical Services and Feasibility Studies (TSFS) Project Agreement provides an additional grant of \$2 million, raising total financing to \$19.5 million.

The TSFS Project is intended to help the public and private sectors in improving the efficiency of water use, environment and health. The TSFS Project will help to upgrade the Al Samra Wastewater Stabilization Ponds and provide technical assistance to the Al Amal National Cancer Center and the establishment of the National Blood Bank branch in West Amman. The TSFS partially financed the restoration of the Amman Citadel, the development of the Madaba Tourism Park, the excavations of the Byzantine church in Petra, and the renovation of resthouses in Pella and Umm Qais. In housing and urban development, the TSFS financed the procurement of a geographical information system and the 1994 National Housing Survey for the Housing and Urban Development Corp. A second amendment to the agreement on the Agricultural Marketing Development (AMD) project provides an additional US contribution of \$1.4 million, raising total financing to \$8.3 million.

AMD, which is being set up by the Agricultural Marketing Organization (AMO) and the newly established Exporters Association, aims at increasing fruit and vegetable exports. This is done by providing farmers with expertise in quality improvement, diversification and identification of export markets, all of which are designed to raise Jordan's foreign exchange earnings.

AI making strides

The general secretary of Amnesty International, Jordan section, Mr Tawiq Abu Baker said that "Arab people appreciated" the work of the organization in fighting violations of human rights in the Middle East. Speak-

ing to the AI annual conference in Loughborough, England, he said there are 20 AI groups in Jordan. Most were set up in 1992 after His Majesty King Hussein officially sanctioned them. He said the Jordan Section headquarters coordinates the activities of all the AI groups in Jordan. He added "the process of democracy which started in my country in 1989 created an open atmosphere which enhanced the work of the AI groups." Since the establishment of AI in Jordan "we have built contacts with numerous people through all kinds of communications discussing the concept and priority of human rights and the importance of participating in the movement for human rights world-wide." Abu Baker said. During the 1980s, AI was regarded among Arab intellectuals as "a western organization serving the interests of the West by concentrating on the violations of human rights in the Socialist bloc. All this changed now as evidenced by the AI groups in Jordan," he continued. Today numerous people are coming to AI's offices in Jordan to join the "Middle East membership department at the AI Secretariat advised us to concentrate on training and strengthening our membership rather than accepting new ones, at a pace which they may not be able to absorb," he concluded.

Personalities to go to Germany

The German-based Konrad Adenauer Foundation has invited six Jordanian personalities to visit Germany between 20 and 30 April. They include: Mr Ahmad Obeidat, member of the Senate and former prime minister, deputy Abdel Karim Al Dughini, Mr Majid Ghanma, a judge at the Court of Cassation and of the High Court, Mr Hashim Al Tal, head of the Public Attorney's Office, Dr Mohammad Ghazawi, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Dr Walid Al Goussous, also a Professor of Law at the University of Jordan. The visit is a study tour designed to acquaint them with US legal and political system of Germany. The program includes visits to Germany's courts—the Federal Constitutional Court and the Federal Supreme Court. There will also be meetings with members of the Bundestag and the states' parliament and officials of the Federal Chancellery's Office. They will visit Berlin, Brandenburg, Bonn, Treves, Karlsruhe



and Heidelberg.

Poll favors Netanyahu

A recent poll puts support for Likud boss Benjamin Netanyahu at 44 percent while support for Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is at 38 percent. Eighteen percent of the respondents polled were still undecided as to who to vote for. Does this mean that Israelis are becoming more and more against the peace process, or is it because they want to see the implementation of Gaza-Jericho quickly? Whatever the case, it prompted Netanyahu to say that if he was elected prime minister, he would not be under any obligation to implement any accord reached between the PLO and the Labor government over the Occupied Territories. He did say however, that Likud would only be prepared to grant autonomy to the Palestinians within the framework of Israeli sovereignty. Israel has lost 17,955 soldiers since 1948 as a result of its wars with the Arabs; there are 64,793 handicapped as a result of war,

while 79,473 suffered psychological trauma who are presently being cared for by the rehabilitation center of the Israeli Defense Ministry.

Conferences

An International Environmental Law conference will be held at the Forte Grand Arman between 3-4 May. The event is jointly organized by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution, the Goethe Institute and the Freidrich Naumann Foundation. The theme of the conference will cover environmental law issues in conjunction with European Community Law who are hoping to build a model for European Cooperation. Participants will include people from: Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia. Topics discussed will include the participation of citizens in Environmental protection, European Union environmental standards,

environmental violations, and environmental laws in Arab countries. The conference will be concluded with a panel discussion on ways of cooperation between Europe and the Middle East in environmental policies and legislation.

A regional NGO workshop on "Promoting women in public life" will be held between 23-25 April near the Dead Sea. Organized by AMIDEAST, Amman, the workshop will discuss the role and development of women in public life through education, information and development programs to help women's NGOs play a more effective role in their own countries. Women from Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Yemen will be participating. At the end of the workshop on 25 April AMIDEAST will hold a reception for the participants at the InterContinental Hotel in Amman. AMIDEAST is a private non-profit organization promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East.

Christopher brings 'suggestions'

Continued from page 1

Referring to the upcoming round of multilateral peace talks due to take place in Washington next month, Christopher said "I hope that the parties will not just come to discussions, but come to discussions ready to make the hard decisions that need to be made to move peace forward."

In what appeared to be an attempt to persuade journalists to support the peace process, Christopher said in his opening statement that journalists "have a big responsibility to help the people in the region understand that they have an opportunity now for peace... Journalists have a responsibility to educate, to convince the people there that the parties need to sit down at the table and negotiate, that they also need to make hard decisions. Decisions of this kind are not made without some painful compromises."

Christopher appeared cautiously optimistic about progress in talks between Jordan and Israel. The two countries, he noted, "have agreed to an agenda, they have worked out a good deal of the language. King Hussein has indicated that he thought the final signature should be the crowning achievement rather than done prematurely or in advance, and of course we can only respect that point of view. Israel and Jordan have continued to be in touch. We hope that there can be progress on the economic ties between the two countries." Referring to Israeli allegations of Jordanian "logistical support" for Hamas and Jordan's response, Christopher said "I was reassured by King Hussein's comments... and I think we are going to see some resolute action on [Jordan's] part." Amman "certainly does not want to be hospitable to the terrorists, or to do anything or have anything done on its territory which promotes terrorism or extremism." He expressed concern with what he

called "the waves of terrorism and the claims of responsibility that we've had from some of the extremist groups."

Christopher said he would welcome participation by Hamas in the peace process, but added that he didn't see any signs that the group is ready to change its opposition to a negotiated settlement.

Christopher downplayed reports of an impending breakthrough between Syria and Israel. "I want to emphasize that the US is not preparing any package. Our job is to try to facilitate the negotiations between the parties." He did say, however, that "Syrian President Hafez Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are looking forward to exchanging views through my mediation."

Christopher said the US has been pressing Israel and the PLO to quickly conclude their current negotiations in Cairo with an agreement on the establishment of an interim Palestinian authority. "The people in the West Bank deserve to see some progress on the ground, rather than just the pieces of paper which have been signed between the parties," he said.

Tourism regulations

Continued from page 1

expected rise in the number of visitors in the coming years. He said a study has been commissioned by the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to propose a comprehensive tourism development plan for the Dead Sea area. That study will be made public after three months, he added.

The minister said problems over Aqaba's south shore are being worked out between the ministry and the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) and that investors will be invited soon to set up projects in that undeveloped area of the sea resort.

Mr Udwai said the role of the Government will be to provide legislative coverage and infrastructure for tourism-related investments. That's why, he said, the ministry has suspended issuing any new permits for developments in Petra until the Government becomes capable of meeting the rising infrastructural demands.

He reiterated the Government's intention to privatize Royal Jordanian (RJ) and said the ministry is studying ending the tourist land transport company, JETT, monopoly by giving licenses to other companies.

Mr Udwai called upon the private sector to train Jordanians in tourism to help solve the problem of unemployment. Members of SKAL Club are Jordanian professionals directly involved in tourism.

The Star
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Sidqi to visit Jordan in May

AMMAN (Star)— Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidqi will visit Jordan on 3 May to head the Egyptian side in the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee.

During his visit, Dr Sidqi will conduct high-level talks with the Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali. A number of bilateral agreements and protocols, especially in the economic field will be signed during the visit.



One explanation is that — as so often happens at the end of epochs — he has run out of intellectual steam. Another is that he sees his role as the author and protector of a historic process of reform, and he knows that too much partisan bickering might endanger what is still a fragile work in progress. Another is that, like any clever underling, he doesn't want to get on the wrong side of the boss. Saturday's multiracial crowd may have had to be bused in and lured to the exhibition hall by food packs and trinkets. But they came, and they cheered, and de Klerk seemed grateful.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Ibrahim Khalaf & Sons Trading Co.

Company Profile

Ibrahim Khalaf & Sons Trading Co. is a private company established in September of 1991. It is a company that aims to supply the Jordanian market with Quality food and confectionery items at reasonable prices.

Our company represents a U.S. company named "Amurol Products" that is specialized in manufacturing kids confections and gum. We represent several other European food companies, one of which is "Oxford Biscuits," which is a Danish company that manufactures Quality Biscuits "Cookies."

As mentioned above, the company is the Agent and distributor for:

AMUROL PRODUCTS
U.S. Company. Some of its products are:

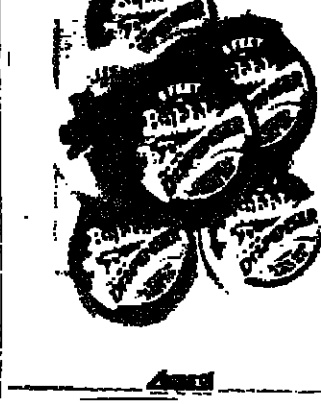
1. Bubble Tape & Tape Twisters.
2. Bubble Beeper.
3. Bubble Jug.
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Dar Al Dawa wishes to share in the joy of His Majesty King Hussein over the completion of the renovation of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem

AMMAN (Star)— Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidqi will visit Jordan on 3 May to head the Egyptian side in the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

People & Politics

Taking a stand on Jerusalem

The celebrations that took place this week to commemorate the completion of the third Hashemite restoration of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques should not be regarded as a symbolic gesture, or as paying lip service to Jerusalem and its holy places, because it is not. His Majesty King Hussein, who donated the funds to complete the restoration, has shifted our attention from the small, often insignificant, side-shows of the peace process to the crux and heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict: The fate of Jerusalem and the rights of the people of Palestine.

It is no wonder that King Hussein occupies a special place among other Arab and Muslim leaders in championing the cause of Jerusalem. His great grandfather and leader of the Great Arab Revolt, Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, was not dissuaded from his commitment to the cause of Palestine. His final resting place beside Jerusalem's walls is a reminder of the Hashemites' historic covenant to defend and protect the noble city. King Hussein's grandfather and founder of modern Jordan, King Abdullah, followed in his father's footsteps in standing up to conspiracies against the Arabs and Jerusalem. It was his destiny to fall, killed by a traitor's bullets, just a few meters from Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock.

By celebrating the restoration of those two holy shrines, King Hussein has focused the light once again on the cause of Jerusalem. "No peace without Jerusalem," he said. A simple but telling statement. What value would be peace to us if Arab Jerusalem and its ancient mosques and churches remain under Israel's control? Who would dare honor and protect such a peace if its price is handing Jerusalem to its occupiers?

It is a sad fact of our political history that King Hussein finds himself today a lonely fighter among the rest of Arab and Muslim leaders in defending so tenaciously the cause of Jerusalem. We as Jordanians felt proud that King Hussein has shared with us that moment, a moment in time when a dream he cherishes so dearly became true in our minds and hearts. We saw Jerusalem free, a jewel among cities, defiant and proud, belonging not to racist occupiers, but to the whole world. And we could hear, for that brief moment, the chimes of its bells and the echoes of the muezzins' calls for prayer. And it was at that particular moment the darkness which has so characterized our recent history was chased away by the light from the mosque's golden dome. If we, as Jordanians, have learned a lesson, it is not to despair. Arabs and Muslims should learn that too.

A case of political disinformation

The unified command of the Wahdah and Hashd parties has issued a strong statement on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the "April 1989 Uprising," which ushered in the democratic reforms that Jordan enjoys today. Not all Jordanians agree that the "uprising" and the democratic process are directly linked. Not everybody agrees with the term "uprising." For some it was a protest by an underprivileged group of Jordanians who took to the streets to show their dismay over Government financial measures. It was called "food riots," "uprising," and "protest," among others. It is true that democratic reforms were introduced soon afterwards, but to say that democracy was the main demand of the people of the south that April is an exaggeration.

But this is not a bone of contention—the unified statement is. Somehow its authors managed to lump together the uprising, democracy, regression in democracy, the sales tax and finally the IMF and the World Bank. Having done all that, the authors then moved to attack the peace process and Jordan's role in it.

The two political parties have the right under democracy to express their opinions and criticize the Government. But under democracy, political parties should accept counter-criticism, too. Their message is a public one, and therefore the public deserves to hear refutations from those who beg to differ.

It is not true that democracy is in retreat in Jordan. It is true, however, that the democratic process is going through a cyclical stage of regression and self-evaluation. Democracy is not about moving forward all the time, but rather about moving in the right direction.

It is impossible to propose a democratic formula that pleases everyone. Democracy is evolution in a civilized, as opposed to bloody, manner. But there are facts on the ground that we, as Jordanians, must deal with. Among them is the failure of political parties, other than the mainstream Islamist parties, to influence Jordanian politics. That is not democracy's fault, but rather the message of most of these parties and their mouthpieces.

The controversy over the sales tax is a dead issue, as far as we are concerned. We believe the Government may have failed to present and manage its case adequately. But to throw around conspiracy theories about World Bank and IMF takeovers of Jordan, as the parties have done, is an insult to our intelligence. Jordan must undergo legislative and administrative reforms, as well as democratic ones. The sales tax, taken as an item in a tax reform package, makes sense and will not undermine Jordanian society, as some political parties are saying.

Finally, we do not agree that Jordan has impaired the Palestinian cause by entering into negotiations with Israel. Jordan was the only country who did more than any other to provide the Palestinians with the necessary "umbrella" to enter into face-to-face negotiations with their enemy. That confrontation led to the Palestinians' taking their own independent route afterwards which culminated in the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel. Jordan had nothing to do with that agreement and today the Palestinians are free to decide their own future and assume responsibility for their own destiny.

On the other hand, Jordan continues to resist attempts to force it to sign a unilateral agreement with Israel at the expense of Syria and the Palestinians. Its principled position is the primary cause for its hardship, as exemplified in the US-led blockade on Aqaba.

New hospital to be built at JUST

IRBID PROVINCE awaits the unwrapping of its most recent gift—the \$50 million King Abdullah Hospital. The hospital will support Irbid's health sector and the Jordan University of Science and Technology's (JUST) medical department. The hospital would also serve as the student's medical training facility.

The contract was signed between JUST and Spanish construction giant Entrecanales who secured the tender in November 1993. Construction began at the end of January and should not take more than four years, according to the contract.

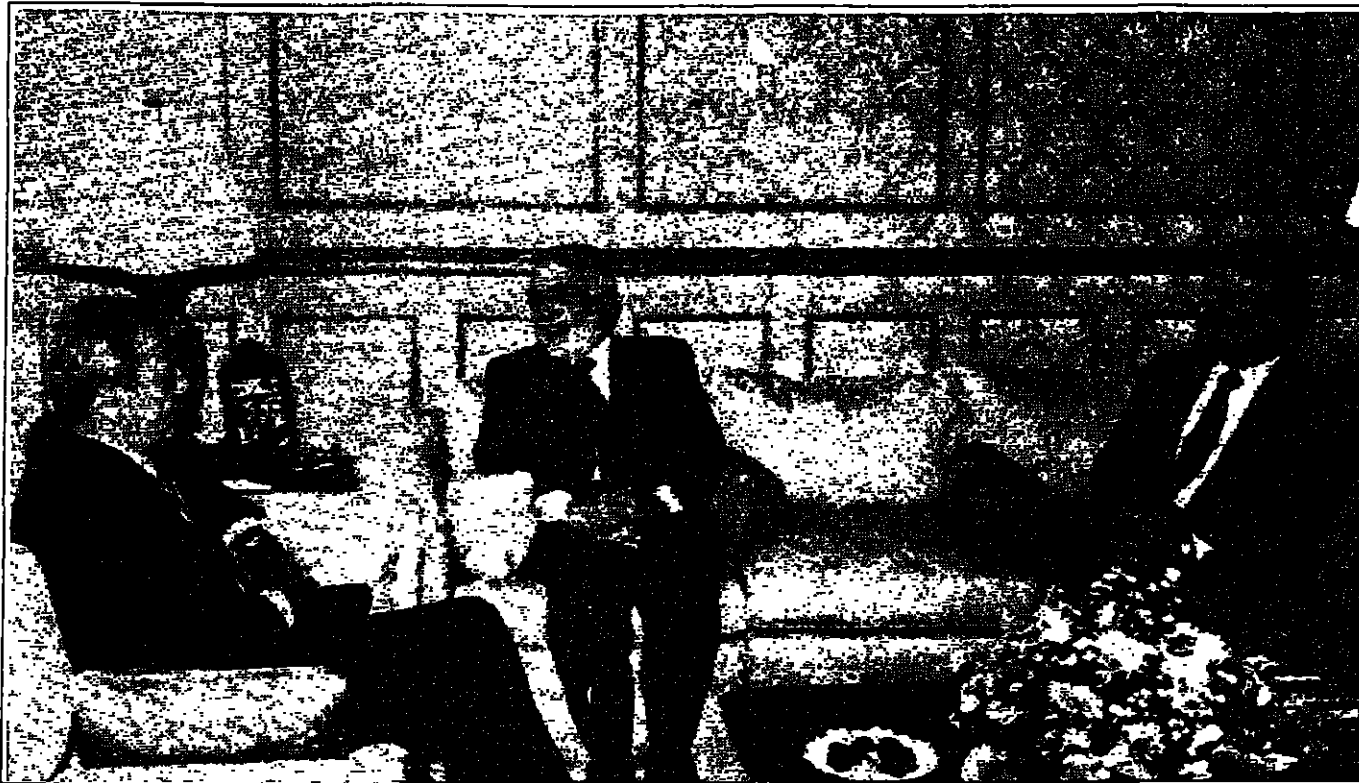
According to Gustavo De Aristegui, first secretary at the Spanish Embassy in Amman, the project is in line with the Jordanian Government's policy to develop the North of Jordan.

The project was awarded to a subcontractor Cubiertas, a year ago. The University's department of projects performed the feasibility study and will supervise its development.

Two Spanish companies, along with many other foreign and Arab companies, bid for the project. Entrecanales was awarded the tender as the lowest bidder, at \$47.8 million.

The hospital is principally financed by the European Community, with some funding from the Arab Fund for Economic Development and the Islamic Bank for Development. A small part of the financing comes from the Ministries of Health and Education.

The project has two phases—construction and procurement of hospital equipment. Tendering for the second phase is expected to cost another \$20 million. "The hospital and the university form an integrated project," Mr. Aristegui said. The King Abdullah Hospital project is one of the largest developments to take place in Jordan's health sector.



His Majesty King Hussein met Lebanese Parliament Speaker Mr Nabih Berri, Sunday. Minister Berri was on a five-day visit to Jordan. He also met the Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali and other high ranking officials. (See Jordan Week)

Mamdouh Salameh

Oil could dip below \$10 a barrel when Iraq resumes production

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr Mamdouh Salameh is a renowned oil economist and a consultant for the World Bank in Washington, a technical expert with the Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Irbid-born oil expert, who is visiting Jordan, talked this week to *The Star's* Osama El Sherif and Dr Marwan Al Asmar on the future of OPEC, Iraq's return to the oil exporting club and regional conflicts in the Gulf. Excerpts follow:

What is happening with the oil market? Why is OPEC having such a hard time maintaining oil quotas and raising oil prices?

Presently, there is a glut of oil in the market, since all the members of OPEC, with the exception of Iraq, are producing at full capacity. With the decline in oil prices, they are losing revenues for oil exports. And as a result of that they have to compensate for low prices by over-production. Added to this are the new technologies in oil exploration which have improved the production of oil in the non-OPEC countries. The Saudis are not going to reduce their current production in the foreseeable future, because if they reduce their production at the current oil prices, they may run a deficit of \$30 billion by 1998. They have already reduced their budget by 20 percent and still their oil revenue does not cover that budget. Of course there is a major element which they, together with other Gulf countries, have in common, which is spending on armaments. The projection for arms spending between 1993-2000 is expected to be \$250 billion if Iraq is included, or \$225 billion if Iraq is not. Out of that \$108 billion will be spent in hard cash on arms purchases.

Will OPEC survive in the coming years?

To answer this point I will give you a bit of background. In July 1990, a few days before the Gulf War, Iraq managed to impose a reference price of \$21 per barrel on OPEC, despite protests from Saudi Arabia, which is the swing producer, and that reflected the growing influence of Iraq at that stage. After the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia got back its influence within OPEC, and they are determined not to reduce their production to maintain their lion's share from Iraq's production. Having said that, there are voices now, even in Saudi Arabia, questioning the importance of staying in OPEC. And their question is if they stay in OPEC after Iraq comes back, eventually they will have to reduce their production along with other members to accommodate Iraq. If they agree to do that, the price of oil will not be adversely affected, but if Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE and particularly Kuwait insist on maintaining their quotas when Iraq rejoins the oil export market, then we are looking at a further decrease in oil prices, possibly dipping below \$10. The Saudis remember when in 1984 Ecuador suspended its OPEC membership because British Petroleum discovered new oil reserves there and they did not want to be tied up by their quota. Venezuela might be toying with the idea of tying itself more to NAFTA and the US, since the bulk of their exports go to the US and they have refineries inside the US and Europe for which they can provide their own heavy crude and sell it as a finished

product. For the first time the Saudis are starting to hint about the benefits of staying out of OPEC. They say if we leave, we might be able to reach a capacity of 10 to 11 million barrels a day by the year 2000.

But having said that, what is the future of OPEC as a cartel?

The western media call it a cartel, but in fact it is not a cartel, because if it were a cartel it could impose better discipline. It remains as a defender of stable oil prices, in the world, and with that in mind, they managed to survive, despite the Gulf War. The only hope is that if the Saudis remain in OPEC, it can survive for many years to come. Of course, OPEC realizes that although it is a power to be reckoned with, it can no longer be as powerful as they were during the 1973 and 1979 oil crises; they can't impose their will on the world, because of non-OPEC members.

What is the role of the industrialized nations, the non-OPEC members and the newcomers into the oil market?

OPEC has to take the new producers into account because although they are not major producers so far, the smaller producers [working together] can muster a stable production level. Russia is a strong card, but my projection for Russian oil production is that it is going down. By the year 2010 they might not even be able to reach the level of production they reached in 1987 and 1988, which is 12.5 million barrels a day. First, they need huge investments in their Siberian oil fields and with the political tension in Russia, even the western donors who are supporting [Boris] Yeltsin are hesitant to spend billions of dollars without knowing where it will all end. Cambridge Energy Research in the US forecast that the major western oil consumers will have to spend more than \$50 billion over the next 10 years to maintain Russia's production at the current level, never mind increasing it. Another reason is that you need to buy technology and you need to buy equipment and these do not come cheap. For every \$1 billion [western countries] give they want so much in return. Under that [figure], they are exporting about 1.5 to two million barrels a day, although sometimes it dips even to one million. If it weren't for their stagnant economy, they would



Salameh

have consumed even that, and there would have been no [Russian oil] exports. But the wild cards are the small newcomers like Vietnam and others.

What about the central Asian republics?

They are oil-rich and again the same logic applies, although to a lesser extent than in Russia. They need foreign investment but don't have the same political tensions as Russia, so to some extent the situation there is much more favorable. More investment is coming into central Asia than in Russia, and at a speedier rate.

But is there a conspiracy from the industrialized world to undermine OPEC?

I would not venture to talk about conspiracy. There is an integration between economic growth and demand for oil and energy. For a country like China, for instance, with a growth rate of nine to 10 percent per annum, the coefficient is 1.07. In other words, for every one percent in GDP growth there is 1.07 percent growth in oil demand. That is why China has become an importer of oil for the first time in its history. I do not subscribe to the conspiracy theory because the major consumers in Europe, the US and Japan have different foreign policies. For instance, if they produce oil [like Britain], they will support a higher price [of oil]. Germany, France and Japan import 100 percent of their oil, so they support a low oil price. The US realizes a low oil price regenerates its economy, but if the price goes down it demolishes its indigenous oil industry and that is politically unacceptable.

But why are the Saudis not doing enough to increase oil prices?

Because they have interests to keep the prices low to enable the various producers, in particular Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE, to spend on armaments, the bulk of which is going to American companies. The American ambassador in Riyadh as well as in Kuwait can dictate his terms ... but eventually the price of oil can in no way remain that low, because by definition if it is that low, it enhances the global demand for it, and because of this you need extra production capacity. If you don't invest in that you will be in a mess eventually, and if you do and the western countries succeed in a breakthrough which diminishes the importance of oil we will end up with a huge

white elephant. So what I am saying is do not be fools, OPEC members. If you want to invest, let the West invest with you 50 percent, let them have a stake as well.

Is the search for alternative sources to oil getting anywhere?

When I am talking about a breakthrough, there is nothing definitive yet. But the western world never stopped searching for alternative sources to oil since the first oil crisis of 1973. They have not succeeded, but that does not mean that they will not eventually succeed. To start with, the bulk of oil worldwide is used in transportation. The US and the OECD countries, the Germans and the Japanese, have already produced cars which work dually on batteries and gas for short trips and in using it they are reducing pollution. In a few years this will have an adverse impact on the demand for oil. Added to this is the fact that western countries are already getting out of one barrel of oil more than the producer. For instance, if you take France, Germany, US, Japan and Britain, if the price of crude oil is \$12, by the time it reaches the consumer you are paying five times more. Where is that money going? Of course part of it goes to refineries, part of it to transport, but the bulk of it is going as taxes.

How do you see the future of the Gulf region? Will we see more conflicts there?

There are more than 24 major disputes in the Arabian Peninsula, the most important which resulted in the Iran-Iraq War. The second Gulf War to all appearances was [waged] to liberate Kuwait and defend Saudi Arabia, but in fact, the western coalition went there to destroy Iraq's military machine and its nuclear capability. Why? Because in the regional scene, if Iraq acquires nuclear weapons it will be the prime power in the Middle East, and can impose its will on the oil producers, including the Saudis. Another thing is that Iraq would have nullified the trump card ... Do you think a man like Arafat would have dared to accept a trivial accord with Israel on the Gaza Strip and Jericho if Iraq's military power was still intact?

Why do the sanctions against Iraq continue?

The sanctions will continue until Saudi Arabia and Kuwait pay for the weapons in hard cash, that is one reason. Saddam Hussein is their main political target, but they also realize in a geo-political sense that if Saddam Hussein goes ... and we get a democratic [regime] in Iraq, would it accept the no-fly zone? Would it accept to pay compensation for damages in Kuwait? If we get a weak leader would we guarantee that Iraq would not be fragmented into southern Iraq and into Kurdistan? And if that happens, what would stop Iran from eventually moving in on the pretext of helping the Shi'ites? And if that happens, would not Turkey be tempted to occupy the north and its oil field? What would happen to Saudi Arabia? ... It will bring Iran and Turkey to its border and that is more damaging than having Saddam. That is why there could be a rapport eventually between Saudi Arabia and Iraq to face Iran and possibly Turkey.

When will Iraq return to the oil market?
It is difficult to say, but I can

Business Chronicle

Edited by Bilal Al-Jawfi

The \$2 billion Aqaba blockade

Aqaba Port is an essential component of the Jordanian economic infrastructure. Its economic value comes from the fact that every metric ton unloaded in the port generates a minimum of JD 25 of income to Jordan's economy.

The port provides jobs to over 5500 Jordanian workers. In spite of the inspection of Aqaba-bound ships by US and French navies, the port remains an important crossing point for thousands of Egyptian workers on their way to Egypt or their host countries in the Gulf. Last year, the port serviced over 2.5 million transit passengers, most of them Egyptians. As a result, a plan is being implemented to expand the passenger facilities in Aqaba in order to accommodate more passenger traffic. The port will add a new JD 12 million pier that will allow 12 ships to dock, expanding the present docking set-up which accommodates only 3 ships. Since the trade sanctions were imposed against Iraq, traffic at the port of Aqaba has slowed down substantially.

The ongoing inspection of Aqaba-bound ships has forced a number of important liners to cancel Aqaba from their ports of call. Indirect and direct losses, accumulating since the Gulf War, were recently estimated to have reached JD 2 billion. His Majesty King Hussein was prompted to make Jordan's participation in the peace process contingent to ending the blockade. Jordanian trade through Aqaba continues to be victimized by the US-led inspection. The US is considered the main enforcer of inspection procedures under the UN's Security Council Resolution 661.

JOCON: Jordan's construction bazaar

Hikmat International, organizer of Jordan's first international trade shows, launched their fourth annual JOCON industry show in Amman today. JOCON, according to the organizer, has been a successful construction industry show promoting the services and products available in the construction market. Held annually in the Amman International Fair grounds in Marj El Hamam, JOCON attracted over 60 exhibitors this year. Companies from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Germany and Italy are participating.

"For the first time we have on display central heating systems that are new to the Jordanian market," says a spokesman for Hikmat International, Tunisia's participation is through ceramic, construction and chemical manufacturers. Among the Saudi participants is the major construction company, Al Zamil Group. Egyptian presence is led by the Arab Contractors Co. and Othman Ahmad Othman and Partners. Foreign companies have on display water purification systems and various heavy machinery.

Jordanian-British trade

A British delegation of 20 companies will visit Amman between 22 and 26 April, to encourage trade between the two countries. Another British delegation is expected to arrive in Amman between 13 and 16 May.

Meanwhile, British ambassador to Jordan Mr Peter Hinchcliffe, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Dr Michel Mario, and a number of Jordanian business people will participate in a special conference, organized by the British Foreign Ministry, to be held on 28 April in London. The conference will cover trade and various economic issues relating to Jordan.

Trade between Jordan and Britain has increased substantially since last year. Jordanian exports to Britain increased by about 5.3 percent reaching JD 23 million while Britain's exports to Jordan increased by about 26 percent reaching JD 140 million in 1993. This translates to a Jordanian deficit of over JD 114 million for 1993. Britain's share of the Jordanian market is estimated at five percent.

An American trade show

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the Commercial Section of the American Embassy in Amman is holding its second annual American Products Promotion Week in cooperation with the Amman International Motor Show. The event, which opened Wednesday, is an annual trade show organized by the American Embassy and representatives of American manufacturing and exporting firms in Jordan.

Trade between Jordan and the US increased substantially over the past year. The show seeks to strengthen the American Embassy's relations with Jordanian importers. More than 25 local agents of American products are represented in this show. Jordan runs a huge trade deficit in favor of the United States. In 1992 the CBJ estimated Jordanian imports from the US at over JD 246.15 million while Jordan exported about JD 4.17 million. This translates into a trade deficit equalling about JD 242 million in 1992.

tell you that it will certainly not be by the end of 1995 or 1996. In my view that will only happen when the Saudis pay for the armaments they bought from the US.

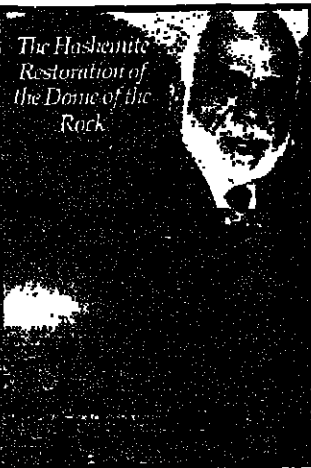
You are saying that the boycott will continue until that time?

Exactly. The Americans, of course, will not say that because it looks very immoral, but that is what is happening. Recently, Clinton informed the US Congress that he does not believe Iraq has satisfied the UN resolution 668 regarding the destruction of chemical and mass destruction weapons and ballistic missile technology.

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History of the Hashemite relationship with the holy places

King Hussein instructs the Government to take the necessary steps to reconstruct the Salah Eddin minbar (a stepped platform for preaching brought from Aleppo to Jerusalem by the Muslim leader Salah Eddin, who liberated the city from the Crusaders in 1187 AD).

On August 1993, King Hussein said: "I instruct the Government from this moment to direct the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Jordanian Committee entrusted with the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock to take all the necessary measures for the reconstruction of the minbar in its original form. We want the minbar to retain its original shape and value and (we want) help revive its historic role as a forum for calling the faithful to close ranks and unite their efforts to confront invaders and to rid the nation of the elements of weakness and unite their efforts to confront invaders and to rid the nation of the elements of weakness. I hereby instruct you to direct the attention of the committee to the restoration of the holy shrines and to include the reconstruction of the minbar in the plans under way for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. We direct this committee to take all the appropriate

Continued on page 5

King Hussein

'We say no to any proposed solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem'

AMMAN (Star)—At the ceremony Monday marking the completion of the restoration of the Dome of the Rock, His Majesty King Hussein said reiterated the special relationship between the Hashemites and Jerusalem. God "blessed me with a special favor to be associated with the first Qiblah and the third sacred mosque," he said in a nationally televised speech. The King added that he will not accept any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict which does not include the restoration of Jerusalem. Excerpts of his speech follow:

● praise be to Allah, the Almighty, who sustains the glory of Islam and who, verily, makes the future belong to those who take heed for themselves and follow the straight path. I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, who has no compeers, and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the votary and messenger of Allah, who took him on a night journey from the Al Haram Mosque to the Al Aqsa Mosque from where Allah ascended him to the Lote tree (by the Garden of Tranquility) in the higher heavens.

● My relationship with Jerusalem is similar to that of any Muslim who believes in God, His Angles, Holy Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgement.

● Our position towards all citizens today is no different. It is the same position demonstrated by our soldiers as they put up legendary resistance in defending the walls, alleys and streets of Jerusalem in the face of the June 1967 aggression. They were the same brave servicemen who kept faith as they fought the Karamah Battle as a perpetuation of their struggle for Jerusalem.

● They were they ones who neither compromised the Arab rights nor did they waver in their determination to defend those rights or face up to the oppression of the usurpers.

● Thus, our association with



Jerusalem stands above the fray of political ploys and earthly greed since it has been anchored in the faith, prophethood, history and martyrdom. We shall keep our pledge and we shall defend the nation's rights to Jerusalem.

historical and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their sacred national soil. In other words, we say no to any peace that the generations to come do not accept, protect and defend.

● These mausoleums should be designed and constructed as architectural masterpieces that display to the generation to come the splendor of their achievements as well as to serve as a source of inspiration to them.

● It is my fervent hope now to see it back in place one day and attend a sermon there in which a preacher would congratulate the nation on restoring freedom and dignity to our Jerusalem.

● For Jerusalem represents our collective memory and common faith. It stands for our epicenter of knowledge, vision and religious tolerance (as exemplified in the Covenant of Umar). It is the focal point of our cherished freedom and dignified peace.

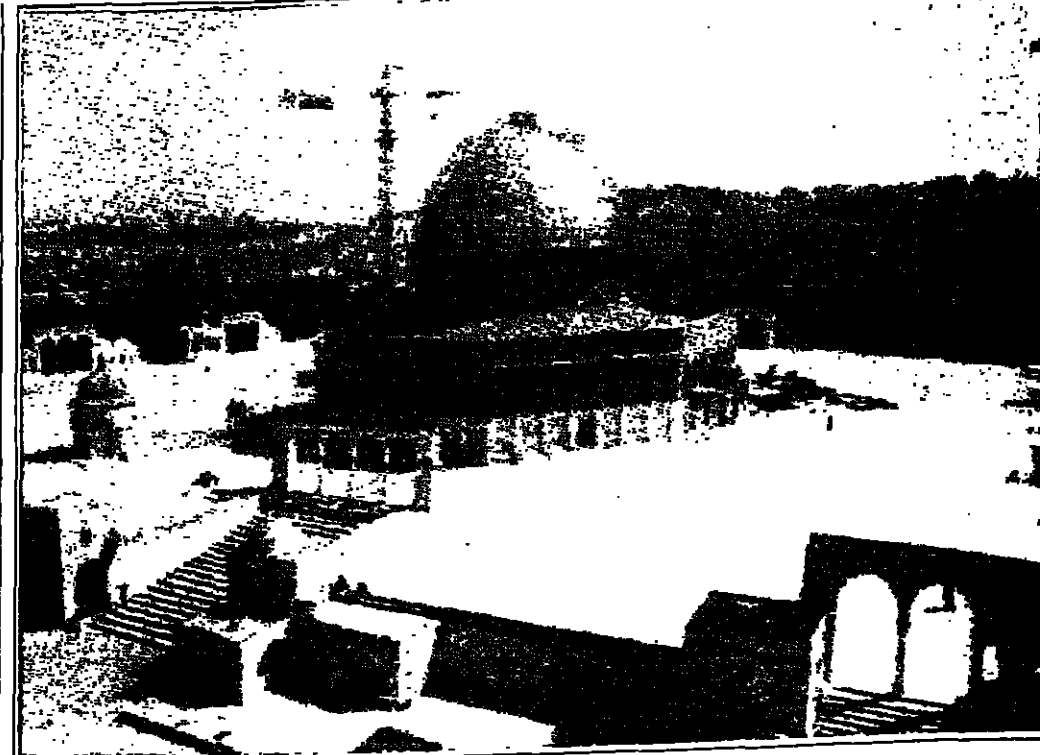
● We shall oppose any change in the physical features of these shrines that might be effected under false pretenses of repair, expansion or renovation or under

any other smokescreen.

● Palestine has every right to insist on gaining its liberty and safe life. Vigilance is in order to ensure, God willing, victory. To all our martyrs there, beginning with Izz-ed-Deen Al Qassam to the most recent worshippers at Al Ibrahim Mosque, we invoke Allah's mercy and compassion. We shall always hold them in glowing memory and we shall forever remain faithful to the cause for which they gave their lives.

● Let me seize this moment to renew the pledge initially undertaken by our forefathers that they will bow their heads in submission to no one except to Allah.

● Rather, we should respond with resolve and determination to rise to the challenge in order to develop a modern Islamic discourse and an integrated model for civilized communal life which revives hope that the whole nation could indeed be reinvented from within in terms of its thinking, orientation, vision and way of life bearing always in mind the need to safeguard freedoms, the pursuit of knowledge, tolerance and justice.



Jerusalem: Occupied but not forgotten

By Victor Kremer
Special to The Star

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein officially reopened the Dome of the Rock and restated the Hashemite connection to Jerusalem, at a ceremony marking the completion of restoration work on the Islamic shrines, in Amman on Monday.

To cries of "Long live the King," His Majesty told several thousand delegates at the Royal Cultural Centre: "...we say no to any proposed solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem."

The King told the assembled religious leaders of his pride in fulfilling his family's historical role as guardian of Jerusalem's Holy places, but said his pleasure was over-shadowed by recent events.

"I must admit that this joyous occasion is soured by the current state of affairs of this nation and the suffering of its peoples, especially the people of Jerusalem and Palestine."

The Hashemites trace their relationship to Jerusalem to the Prophet Muhammad, who

ascended to Heaven from the spot the Dome of the Rock is built on. Since the life-time of the Prophet, when Muslims prayed facing Jerusalem, the holy city has exerted a powerful call on the faithful.

The Haram Al Sharif is a site of the greatest value to Muslims. That place represents man's connection to God," explains Mr. Fu'ad Jamil Al Kayed, an official at Amman's Ministry of Awqaf, which supervised the renovation of the Dome of the Rock.

"King Hussein is a true believer in God," says Mr. Al Kayed. "He undertook the restoration out of his devotion."

That devotion is so deep that the King spent \$8.25 million of his own money to have the dome electroplated with 75 grams of 24 karat gold.

Senator Kamel Al Sharif believes foreign governments could have done more to assist in the project.

"Jordan approached many Western governments [for funds] but none of them responded favourably," he said. "I don't know what the situation will be in the future," Senator Al Sharif

added, "but I think Jordan will continue to play a key role."

"The reopening of the Dome of the Rock is also an occasion for reflection on the status and sovereignty of Jerusalem."

Renovation work has also begun on the adjacent Al Aqsa Mosque. For this task Jordan has assembled a team of craftsmen from across the Islamic world. The artisans, from Morocco, Syria, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt, are specialists in traditional Islamic architecture. At the heart of the Al Aqsa restoration is the Minbar Saladin or pulpit. The wooden pulpit was brought to Al Aqsa by Saladin, after the conquest of Jerusalem in the late 12th century. The pulpit was badly damaged, along with the southeast section of the mosque, in an arson attack in 1969. Jordan has established a training school for the craftsmen, from which the best will be selected to renovate the mosque.

Rafef Nijim, acting president of the Commission on the Renovation of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, has visited Jerusalem every year since 1969. "This is the biggest restoration since the year 691," says Mr. Nijim proudly, "when the shrine was built by Abdel Malik Ibn Marwan."

"We have won awards from the Agha Khan establishment and from Harvard University, for the quality of our work," he said.

Also praised for their work were Mivan Overseas Ltd.—the firm from Northern Ireland which renovated the Dome of the Rock.

Henry Johnson, Mivan's managing director, said his company was keen to see the Dome of the Rock restored to its "rightful place as the Jewel of Jerusalem."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan presented senior directors of Mivan, including local subcontractors, with Al Kawkab—a medal of the first order of excellence—for the third Hashemite restoration of the Dome of the Rock, at the Royal Palace, Tuesday.

Future projects for the Belfast firm include building a JD 13 million, 232 bed hospital for UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) in Gaza, which should be completed by the end of next year.

"We did respond, we were committed, we did achieve and," Mr. Johnson told the delegates in the Royal Cultural Centre, "today we are very proud."

So what did the delegates themselves think?

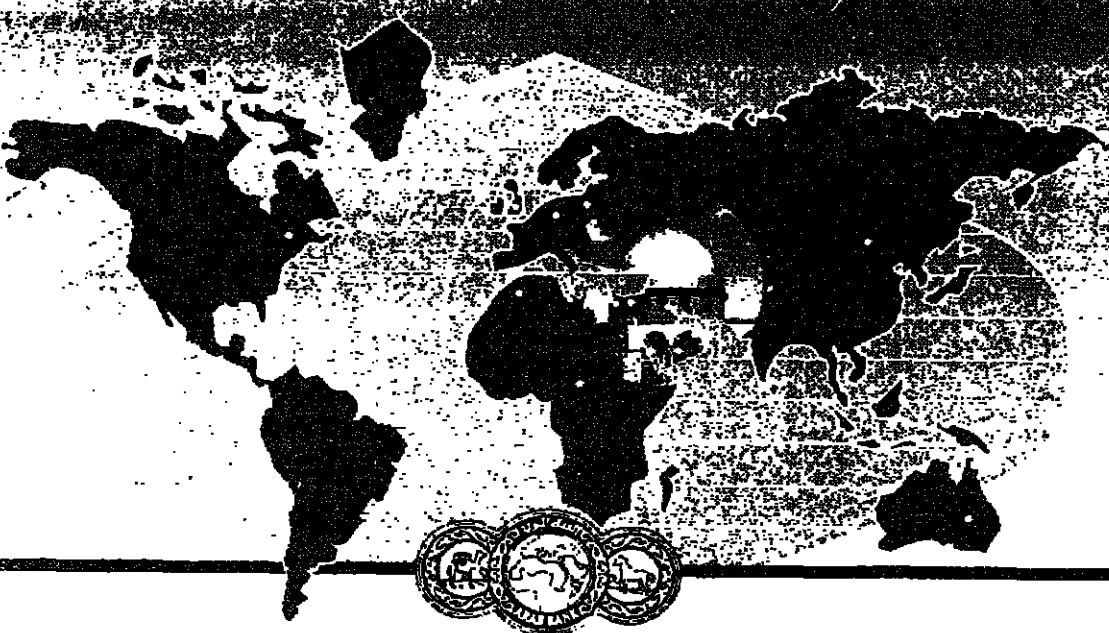
"As a Muslim I feel very proud and happy that the renovation of Islam's third holiest site is completed and I am grateful to His Majesty King Hussein," said Daio' Abang Mustapha, a minister from the prime minister's department, Malaysia.

"The Haram Al Sharif is very important for all religions, and perhaps for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Muhammad Amin Ismaili, of Rabat University, Morocco, told The Star.

"Now I want to see the Dome of the Rock for myself," said Mr. Zarkowi Soejeto from the Ministry of Awqaf in Indonesia. "I feel this occasion in my heart. I am glad I came," he added.

The presence of so many delegates at the ceremony in Amman demonstrates something other than an interest in Islamic architecture. It is now 27 years since Israel captured Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan. The significance of that act continues to be felt: Palestinians are denied their most basic national rights and the wider Muslim world is denied access to its third holiest site. That was the message which the delegates brought with them, from Jakarta, from Karachi and from Kuala Lumpur: Muslims and Arabs will not allow the memory of Jerusalem to fade.

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achievement

A magnificent feat Muslim shrine is as good as gold



The Dome under renovation

By Mark Fineman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—His Majesty King Hussein donated the needed money from his private funds in order to do it. And a high-tech Northern Ireland company had to work through more than a year of riots, curfews and religious clashes to complete what it calls the largest and most complex electroplating job of its kind ever attempted.

But, as 40 Palestinian and foreign workers put the finishing golden touches on the ancient, 15-foot-high crescent moon on the third-holiest site of Islam, one of the world's most ambitious religious renovation jobs has been completed.

Last Monday a ceremony was held in Amman to celebrate the 5000 glittering new gold plates that adorn Jerusalem's ancient Dome of the Rock. King Hussein inaugurated the refurbished dome over the sacred shrine where Prophet Mohammed departed earth and ascended to Heaven.

The fact that King Hussein, the official custodian of the Dome of the Rock and financier of its renovation, cannot travel to

the site to commemorate or even gaze upon the product of his \$8 million investment, says much about the tribulations and politics that have accompanied the restoration, problems rooted in the shrine's location.

The Dome and the adjacent Al Aqsa Mosque sit in the eye of a political storm that has raged for more than a quarter of a century around the most disputed piece of land in the disputed city of Jerusalem. Jews hold holy the Western Wall, which delineates one side of the temple built by King Herod.

The Islamic shrines, which draw millions of Muslim worshippers each year, are, in fact, under Israeli occupation and control in the heart of the walled Old City that Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It is land that the Israelis have vowed never to relinquish. But the land is also claimed by the Palestinians who lived in the area through a succession of regimes and administrations that ended with Jordan.

Through all the claims and counterclaims, King Hussein remains the uncontested custo-

dian of the Rock, the Dome that covers it and Al Aqsa Mosque. And that is a role so important to the King that he sold off part of his family fortune to refurbish the treasures, and flatly refused a counter-bid to repair the leaking and sagging dome by King Fahd, of Saudi Arabia and custodian of Islam's two other holiest sites in Mecca and Medina.

Against this backdrop, Patrick O'Hare, a veteran of complex Middle East engineering projects, has successfully navigated through the politics of a city sacred to three religions. He has now completed a job he considers "the highlight of my career."

For O'Hare and his Belfast-based Mivan Overseas Ltd., replating the Dome of the Rock was not just another contract. It was a far greater challenge and far more rewarding, he said, than Mivan's last construction contract at Euro Disney. And far more meaningful than the construction of a full-sized replica of the Titanic that his company recently began.

Not even the three grand palaces O'Hare and his company built for Iraqi President Saddam

Hussein came close, he said.

The challenges of the Dome were largely technical. Never before, O'Hare said, has a fixed object as large as the Dome of the Rock ever been gold-plated in place.

"The process has been used before—there were a couple domes done like this in California—but it had never been done on this scale before anywhere in the world," the engineer said with pride, as workers in an adjacent pre-fab workshop at the foot of the monument touched up the golden crescent that was reinstalled atop the dome on Inauguration Day last week.

To do the job, O'Hare's company imported two giant cranes, 190 pounds of gold, 1500 new brass sheets and 5000 copper joints from Britain. Mivan also brought in timber from the West African country of Gambia to reconstruct the support structure under the dome. Workers imported and assembled on-site the sophisticated electroplating machinery that O'Hare said accomplished the task at the rate of 40-square-meters per day.

"I'd like to think it's a world record," he said.

"It was in bad shape," O'Hare said of the dome, which was last restored not with gold plating but anodized aluminum in 1956. "The dome itself was leaking, and the lower structure was falling apart."

One of the greatest challenges was to make sure the dome wasn't too shiny. O'Hare said the King wanted a traditional look, a "relatively matte finish." Furthermore, the engineer explained, "if it were a really bright finish, it would be like a mirror off the sun. From a distance, it would look black."

As things turned out, the politics inherent in the site presented O'Hare and his workers with surprisingly few complications.

"It hasn't caused us any major

problems," he said of frequent protest strikes by Palestinian factions that have shut down most of East Jerusalem and the Old City for reasons unrelated to the work on the shrine.

"We normally work on the strike days, especially because of the nature of the project. They treat us very well. They give us special VIP treatment."

In fact, O'Hare added, for the first time in his life he has been stopped on the street and asked for his autograph.

The most memorable moment of the operation, O'Hare recalled, was when his team removed the canvas that veiled the dome during most of the restoration. "People started cheering," he said, "and it really was very moving."

Few are moved by the sight of the glowing new dome as regularly and as deeply as Sheikh Mohamed Hussein. He is the grand Imam at the Dome of the Rock, and his office is just a few dozen yards from the shrine.

"Definitely, it is a beautiful, positive feeling every morning I see it," he said. "It reminds me I am in Al Quds (the Arabic name for Jerusalem), and it reminds me that I am of Islam."

"We are very happy with this," the Imam observed. "We are convinced that this particular plating is the very best money can buy." And, he said, the work made no significant changes to a shrine that is "the only Islamic landmark that has remained virtually unchanged through all the centuries."

It was completed in 691, about 60 years after the death of the Prophet.

What has changed, though, are the political developments that have swirled around the shrine in the seven months since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed their historic declaration calling for Palestinian autonomy in the Occupied Territories.

The Israelis and PLO leaders agreed to discuss the fate of the Old City, that ancient, walled part of Jerusalem and the Islamic shrines, over the next five years.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Middle East Beat by Khairi Janbek



Sharif Hussein King Abdullah King Hussein

The Hashemites and Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, THE city of holy sites and center of the three monotheistic religions—Islam, Christianity and Judaism—has long been the object of international rivalry, fought over by many states and empires. Situated in Palestine, the holy land, the most sacred, has long been revered by the Muslim world.

The city is not merely a boundary or an abode, but an identity and spirit—one that is unquestionably Islamic, Arab and Hashemite. Indeed, the association of the Arab identity and Hashemite spirit with Jerusalem pre-dates the dawn of Islam. It is traced to the era when the Hashemites were masters of Mecca. It was at that time Hashim Bin Abd Al Mahaf sought peace and security for his people by signing agreements with the kings of Syria and with the Romans.

The association between the Hashemites and Jerusalem grew stronger with Islam. Jerusalem's identity and spirit became the realization of Islamic conquest which derived its legitimacy from the Covenant of Omar Ibn Al Khatab, the second Islamic Khalif. The covenant not only acknowledged the right for Christians to practice their religion freely, but also allowed Jews access to their religious sites and residence inside the city after many years of exclusion, something they were denied by the Byzantine Church.

It is this legacy that binds the Hashemites to Jerusalem, one that transcends time, political sovereignty, and temporal power—all of which demanded constant sacrifices from the Hashemite bearers.

Even though the perfidy of the western Allies became clearer and the betrayal of Arab hopes more apparent during World War I, Sharif Hussein Bin Ali, deemed to be the King of all Arabs, continued to struggle for a united Arab kingdom against overwhelming odds. However, this failed when he rejected the Anglo-Arab treaty of 1921, because of the special clauses on Palestine. The treaty would have wrested it from Arab hands and obscured its Arab identity and its guardianship over Jerusalem. After the Balfour Declaration, when Zionism intentions emerged, Sharif Hussein refused to sign any agreements altering the status of Arab Palestine, or negating the Covenant of Omar over Jerusalem. All temporal power was sacrificed to save the Arab character and Hashemite spirit of Jerusalem.

It was left to the late martyred King Abdullah to shoulder the responsibility of guardianship over Jerusalem. Not only did the Zionist claims on the holy city need to be combated, but also the conspiratorial proposals from friends, brothers, and foes alike, to internationalize Holy Jerusalem under the guise of legality. This was a euphemism designed to rob the holy city from Hashemite guardianship and pave the way for Zionist domination.

For the martyred King, there was only one Jerusalem which would not be sacrificed, for it is the heart and spirit of the Hashemites and a legacy to be fulfilled with sincerity. King Abdullah paid the ultimate sacrifice for his principles and beliefs, when he was martyred by mercenary hands within the walls of the Holiest of Holies.

The Hashemite link to Jerusalem was passed on to His Majesty King Hussein. The close spiritual and geographical proximity of Jerusalem and Amman has rendered the King the guardian of Jerusalem, and Amman the center for inter-faith dialogue. And true to its Hashemite spirit and tradition, the severing of administrative and legal ties with the West Bank did not effect the holy mosques of Jerusalem and its sharia courts. Since 1952, His Majesty has spent \$240 million for the maintenance of those sites.

There is no sovereignty to be claimed, nor signed away, for Jerusalem. The only legitimate sovereignty is to God Almighty. Jerusalem rejoice! ■

Hanna Nasser Israelis minimize restoration process

Hamdan Al Haj
Special to The Star

Hanna Nasser

DIGNITARIES FROM all over the world attended Monday's ceremony marking the completion of the restoration of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock. The Deputy Mayor of Occupied Bethlehem, Hanna Nasser, attended the ceremony and expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein who personally paid for the third restoration of the Dome of the Rock of Al Aqsa Mosque. The occasion marked the important link between the Hashemites and Jerusalem.

Mr Nasser said that he hoped that "His Majesty the King will continue to take an active interest in the holy places in the Occupied Territories," which are among the holiest shrines in Islam. He added that "this comes at a time when the Israelis are trying to minimize the efforts taken to restore the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosque."

He added there is an onslaught on Jerusalem, expressed by "Israeli intransigence not to allow Palestinian Arabs, Muslim or Christian, to their holy places."

The Israelis, Mr Nasser continued, "are not allowing free access to Jerusalem." The deputy mayor predicts that the "Israeli government will seal off Jerusalem from the rest of the Occupied Territories [and] that will change the religious character of the city. Already the Israelis are trying to change the demographic character of Arab East Jerusalem by 'creating facts on the ground,' which involves building Jewish neighborhoods and settlements among Arab residential areas."

When asked about the peace process, Mr Nasser said the Palestinian leadership had no choice but to go into the negotiations and produce tangible results. He said "the Oslo agreement was vital, and Palestinians living under occupation accepted it, even though it fell short of an independent Palestinian state."

At this stage, Palestinians in

the Occupied Territories are watching events very carefully, hoping that the steps taken by the Palestinian leadership are the right ones. However, Mr Nasser, who was one of the deportees recently allowed to return to the Territories said that Palestinians and Christians are "very worried about the future of East Jerusalem, as its future and final status has been left to be negotiated until a later date."

Mr Nasser said the economic situation is worsening because of the sealing off of the Occupied Territories, a situation that is not likely to be conducive to the coming period of peace. ■

The British Bank of the Middle East

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His Majesty King Hussein
for his magnificent contribution to the
restoration of the Dome of the Rock

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History of the Hashemite...

Continued from page 4

and necessary steps and to recruit the required number of technicians and skilled architects for the project until it regains its original form and status, regardless of the cost."

"We are determined to safeguard the holy shrines and the Islamic heritage which includes the Salah Eddin minbar that withstood the elements of age for centuries. And we are determined that the minbar should regain its original form reflecting its beauty and its perfection."

By the end of August 1993 work was under way on the Dome of the Rock. The contractor chosen was the Irish construction firm Mivan, who signed a contract with the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf in 1992.

In this most recent restoration of the minbar, the materials most resembling those initially used were gathered by artisans and 40 plans were collected for the full comprehension of its design. The restoration of the minbar alone would have cost in the area of \$3 million.

The Dome of the Rock has been completely covered with gold-gilded copper sheets supported by lead at a cost of nearly \$6.5 million.

In addition, the interior roof has been restored and an early warning system has been installed against fire.

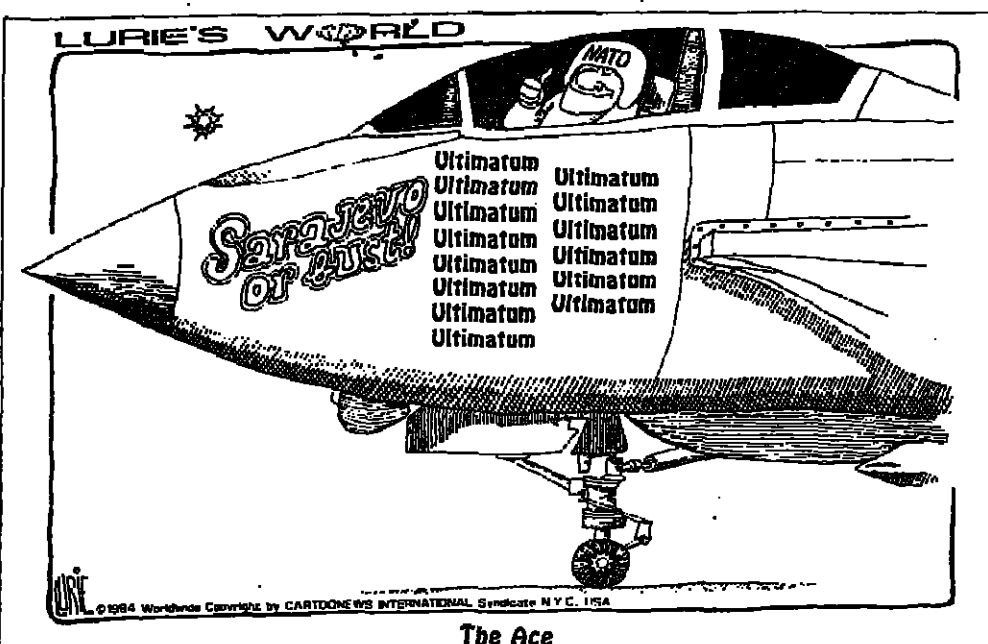
The Second Hashemite Restoration:

Due to the fact that the Dome of the Rock was exposed to societal and natural erosion, the Jordanian Government on 8 May 1952 asked the Egyptian government to delegate some of their experts on construction and archaeology to examine the damages. The Egyptian delegation went to Jerusalem and spent seven days (3-10 January 1953) studying the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque. A report was then sent to the Jordanian Government on 4 April 1953.

The Jordanian Government took a number of important steps towards the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. The most important was the enactment of the Construction Law for the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque in the year 1954 authorizing the Prime Ministry to designate a committee to construct and restore the Dome of the Rock. The law was adjusted on 21 March 1991 appointing the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs head of the committee.

The First Hashemite Restoration:

At the end of the Ottoman rule, Sharif Hussein, great grandfather of Jordan's present King, was political leader and spiritual guide over much of the Middle East including the Jerusalem area. It was noticed that the Haram Al Sharif and especially the Dome of the Rock were in need of comprehensive refurbishing and restoration. Assistance was called for by The Islamic Higher Council in 1922 in the form of donations for restoration. Delegations were sent to Egypt, Iraq, Hijaz, Bahrain, Kuwait, India and Syria. The most generous of these contributions came from Sharif Hussein bin Ali. The restoration was finished in 1927 and Sharif Hussein's tomb is now located in the southern corridors of the



Our Say...

Punishing the proponents of peace

JORDAN'S SYMBOLIC participation in the multilateral talks on water, which took place last week in Oman, came as proof of Jordan's seriousness about its decision to suspend its role in the peace process until the unjust blockade on Aqaba is lifted. As a result, Israel and the Palestinians were the only key members of the peace process who were present at these talks, since Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilateral talks altogether.

It was important for Jordan to follow its warning with immediate action. US officials have been paying us lip service since the end of the Gulf War, but nothing has been done to alleviate Jordan's hardship. Commercial vessels sailing to Aqaba are still being intercepted at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, and several were denied entry and sent back since Jordan announced its new stand.

Jordanian officials are still waiting for a response to their demands from the UN and the United States.

The US attitude towards Jordan's grievances leaves little doubt in our minds that the blockade is actually being enforced to pressure Jordan and has nothing to do with sanctions against Iraq. Jordan has made a good case in calling for the blockade to be lifted on legal, humanitarian and economic grounds. It is the UN's responsibility to address these grievances immediately and fairly.

We feel dismayed that Jordan is being punished for its policies, which were always in line with the UN Charter and international law. Jordan, a key player in bringing all parties together at the Madrid peace conference, played a vital role in pushing the process forward. It has always favored dialogue over confrontation, and carried more than its share of regional responsibility. To be subjected to such treatment by the coalition flotilla and their leaderships can only be interpreted as a hostile act against the Kingdom, its leadership and its people.

As the peace process begins to disintegrate as a result of Israel's intransigent policies and US ineptitude and lack of vision, Jordan's positive input is being missed. Today, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are on the periphery of the peace process, each for his own reasons.

Such a sad situation would not have come about if the US had taken a more realistic and sober look at our region. Instead, the Arab parties feel they are being punished and pressured to meet Israeli and American conditions for peace. The blockade of Aqaba is but one form of US pressure to shove the peace deal down our throats.

But even the US can miscalculate its moves. His Majesty King Hussein has made it clear that Jordan will not yield to pressure or threats. The ongoing political and economic terrorism of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians does not serve the cause of peace in the Middle East. In the end it will not serve Israel's interests because if we are forced to accept an unfair deal, then we will be preparing the fertile ground for fundamentalism and extremism to take over. ■

Nixon's condition critical, his prognosis guarded

By John J. Goldman

NEW YORK—Richard Nixon, former US president, was returned to the intensive care unit at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center Tuesday.

"He is having every possible attention," said Dr. Fred Plum, the hospital's neurologist-in-chief. Mr. Nixon who is now 81 suffered a stroke last Monday night, causing partial paralysis on his right side and loss of speech. He appeared to have stabilized Tuesday, but early in the evening he appeared to be becoming drowsy and physicians suspected there could be brain swelling, a complication of strokes. A CAT-scan confirmed the diagnosis. Plum told reporters that Nixon was "under closer scrutiny" by a team of 12 nurses and numerous doctors. For the first time, doctors described the attack Nixon suffered Monday as a "major" stroke. Plum also confirmed that Nixon was undergoing treatment for an irregular heartbeat before he entered the hospital and that a blood thinner had been prescribed in an effort to prevent a stroke. Strokes can be a complication of cardi-arrhythmias. Nixon will continue to receive anticoagulants as well as drugs to reduce intracranial swelling, Plum said, adding that Nixon could be awakened.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

By Dr Marwan Asmar

DEMOCRACY HAS become essential for modern society. The attributes of a modern state lie in its democratic base, institutions, and plurality. The crux of a homogeneous society and popular will, the state must be a government based on strict division of authority: the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Today, no man, clique or strata can rule a state by its own but must be the result of collective decision-making sanctioned by the people.

According to Professor Burhan Ghalyoon, an Arab intellectual from the Sorbonne, society must be based on political pluralism, peaceful transition from one government to the next (as opposed to violent coup d'état), and state "legalism"—a framework of laws that guarantee equality and opportunity for all citizens, regardless of race or creed.

Few states in the third and Arab worlds have followed such a development. Jordan, an exception, has come to follow a political system based on popular parliamentary representation emphasizing political pluralism, freedom of expression and civil liberties. For Ghalyoon, a democracy produces institutionalized channels of communication where dialogue and debate are central to solving society's problem.

The rise of fundamentalism, violence and civil wars in Arab states are not the result of westernization, as some maintain, but

rather the absence of democracy. This means that governments are lethargic about finding solutions to society's problems simply because there are no in-built mechanisms to facilitate a peaceful transition from one government to the next or from one ruling party to the next.

This is of utmost importance, because it reflects the development of institutions, plurality, the creation of a consensus and their acceptance by society. These characteristics make for a "mature" democracy.

Democratic development does exist in the Arab world: Egypt and Algeria are two examples. However, these countries have deviated, and their one-party rule has monopolized state power. As they became entrenched in the system of governing, they quashed all signs of plurality and effectively cut off other political parties from competing for political power. The ruling elites use the tools of state, such as the police and army, to prop up their regimes, according to Ghalyoon.

This development colonized with the alienation of the people.

Burhan Ghalyoon:

Our society must be based on political pluralism



Ghalyoon

Ghalyoon says that instead of widening their popular base, the states constricted it, cutting themselves off from the people. It was this, and their failure to solve the problems of society—the high cost of living, unemployment and corruption—that created fundamentalism and hence violence against a system that it could no longer identify with.

Ghalyoon says that political violence is not part of our inherent make-up, as some western scholars have maintained, but has reasons—political, economic and social. Unless these are addressed, then violence will continue. Above all, Ghalyoon believes that Arab public opinion has lost confidence in its leadership, and this must be restored. Unless government is backed by the people, he says, then it is very difficult for it to deal with the pressing issues and provide solutions to our problems ultimately putting an end to the phenomena of violence.

From the above it can be discerned that Ghalyoon is putting "statist" solutions to our problems, for Arab nationalism is just a figment of our imagination. It

was not the last Gulf war that put an end to Arab nationalism, for it has been in terminal decline since 1967. This was marked by the end of the Arab nationalist movement and "consummated" by the Camp David accords of 1978 between Egypt and Israel, which was the final straw, so to speak, that broke the back of the Arab nation.

We can't return to the view espoused by the Arab nationalist movement that we are one nation, but must strive for economic and regional integration, cooperation in scientific and technology, as well as culture. These are basic if

we as Arabs are to continue to make our mark on the international system, says Ghalyoon. ■

Dr Asmar is Managing Editor of The Star.

Schindler's List: Sex, violence and censorship

By MGG Pillai
Star Southeast Asia Correspondent

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S film "Schindler's List," based on Australian author, Thomas Keneally's "Schindler's Ark," need not have become a "storm in the tea cup." Mr. Spielberg, arrogantly and insensitively, insisted that it be screened uncut or not at all. Countries fell in line, but some like Malaysia also insisted that some sex and violence scenes needed to be cut. As a conse-



quence, United International Pictures refused to release the film. Jewish groups, including the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, branded Malaysia and her leaders anti-Jewish for censoring the film. Philippine President Fidel Ramos on the other hand overruled his censors, ordering the film to be shown uncut, while Singapore only allowed those over 21 to see it.

Malaysia's inept handling made her unnecessarily defensive. The Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Dato' Megat Junid Megat Ayob, insisted that the proposed seven censorial snips would not "affect the flow of the film."

But his statement did not explain why the Lembaga Penapis

Film (LPF, the Film Censorship Board) even bothered to view the film. In every country, including the United States, censors routinely certify films or videotapes or both before their release for public viewing, the guidelines varying from country to country. Even the United States would have found Mr. Spielberg's conditions unacceptable in similar circumstances. The LPF's convoluted, ungrammatical, unintelligible explanation for banning the film missed the point: In view of Mr. Spielberg's conditions, all it needed to say is that it would not view the film. Instead, the cabinet had to step in, to insist that it is the LPF and not the distributors that have the final say on screening. And it was them that would decide on whether the seven scenes of violence, nudity, sexual intercourse, executions, mindless health checks on hundreds of naked women should be cut.

"Schindler's List" is based on Mr. Keneally's fictionalized life of a small-time German-Czech Nazi black marketeer and womanizing crook named Oskar Schindler who saved about 1000 Jews in his munitions factory in Krakow, in Poland, from death. This brought him praise among Jewish groups throughout the world, although he abused the Jewish women in his care. The violence and sex made the film a doubtful starter. Mr. Spielberg's brilliant public relations demand that the film be shown uncensored hyped an otherwise ordinary film—even gauging a country's responsiveness to Jewish sufferings in World War II. But these countries failed to grasp the Gentile-Jewish backlash it would create in not showing the film.

The rights and wrongs of censorship is not at issue here. Mr. Spielberg is aware of censorship

guidelines, since his previous films have been censored around the globe. But he decided, for his own reasons, to raise the ante on "Schindler's List." That is unacceptable, and not just in Asia; but the inept and inadequate response from Malaysia and other countries gave it a filip, fanned by newspaper coverage that kept the embers burning but with little understanding of what it was all about.

Whether one likes it or not, censorship is a necessary evil to preserve national cultural and societal boundaries against attack from foreign cultures and societies. The definition of those boundaries as lax or restrictive cannot be subject to dictates from elsewhere. Problems arise when foreign standards are "universally" deemed desirable; this does not happen just in films. The US until recently demanded that China insert concepts such as human rights and democracy in their language, accept the western definition of free trade discrimination.

Given the stridency of western cultural norms and perceptions governments use censorship to reduce or remove these influences, though not always successfully. But ways of life in non-western countries continue to be under attack from foreign cultural am-



Spielberg: "Schindler's List" should be screened uncut or not at all

bushes buttressed by mindless, third-rate pernicious productions that pass for entertainment. The resistance to simplistic common denominators used to impose an alien culture on a country ill-prepared becomes a convenient rallying point, reinforced by control of the global media. "Schindler's List" is but another rallying point for "us" to beat "them" down.

In attacking Malaysia and other countries, the broader issues become lost. Censorship per se is not the issue, nor of Muslims censoring Jewish themes in films and books, but it becomes an issue when somebody could demand arrogantly that cultural boundaries of a country be forcibly widened.

Forgotten are the censorship guidelines by which Malaysia and, indeed, every other country, routinely censors films, videos and books. It is about producers imposing cultural conditions on the distribution of their films and, to a lesser degree, of self-important film national censors and politicians unclear about the issues involved, but write and speak inarticulately about the subject.

The presumption that we lose if we do not see the film is similar to the loss presumed in not reading Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*.

Both acquired a cult following as a result, far more than they would have otherwise. In Malaysia, officials and politicians are unclear of what they should do, unwittingly giving an unnecessary blow-by-blow account of conditions for showing the film. The cultural and social arrogance of the West in imposing its values on others is all over us, gaining added strength from the 24-hour global networks and third rate television serials that we see on our screens.

Censorship, regardless of its liberal perception, is universal, but standards vary from country to country. Japan, for instance, allows sexual intercourse on screen and video. Philippines allow one breast of a woman to be shown, but not both at the same time. Malaysia often does not censor the mindless violence of television serials, but draws the line at nudity of any kind, often capriciously banning a video of a film that it had passed only a few months earlier. Indian censors slip out of their puritan Gandhian outlook. Singapore, often falls between two stools in its censorship policies. Even the United Kingdom and the United States censor their films. Mr. Spielberg's actions impose on the cultural and societal field a view similar to the United States' politically contestable prescriptions for human rights and democratic practices in trade disputes. Not only is that unacceptable, it points to yet another area of future conflict. ■

Fifteen years after the Islamic revolution, Iran faces hard economic times

By Adam East

ON 11 February, Iranians celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. Tens of thousands of Tehranis chanted the usual slogans, "Death to America, death to Israel." But in recent years, the slogans sound more hollow and the people seem less enthusiastic. The clergy-led revolution brought with it the promise of justice and equality to the masses—its main base of support. But after 15 years, the standard of living of the average Iranian citizen has declined by 50 percent compared to the days of the Shah.

The minimum wage in Iran is less than one-third that which people need to live, a fact recently disclosed by the country's labor minister, Hossein Kamali. Inflation is running at about 30 percent. Since the unification of the three different exchange rates in March of last year which resulted in the devaluation of the currency, the Iranian rial has gone from 70 to the dollar to over 1,700 to the dollar—a staggering fall of over 2,000 percent.

The Islamic Republic's attempt to introduce hard labor in its "free trade zones" has not produced desirable results, either. The government is going all-out to sweeten the pot for foreign investors. Earlier, investors could

only own a maximum of 49 percent of the share in a business or commercial activity. But now, "all hurdles are clear."

As a senior adviser to President Hashemi Rafsanjani put it. He announced that foreign investors can now own 100 percent of their economic concerns. The Islamic Republic is also allowing foreign banks to operate in the free trade zones without "any restrictions."

Iran's foreign debt, which up until 1988 stood at almost zero, because Ayatollah Khomeini had no desire to be indebted to "unbelievers," is now pushing the \$30 billion mark. Payment arrears on external debt are about \$10 billion. Iran's biggest trade partners (Germany and Japan), who are now reportedly working on rescheduling Iran's short-term debt, are under continuing US pressure to reduce trade in order to "isolate" Iran. Germany, especially, which has been frequently put in the

spotlight, in January issued a mild warning to Tehran to improve its record on "human rights."

This action, of course, is solely to please Uncle Sam. But while the United States is discouraging others from trading with Iran, the United States itself is doing the opposite. Over the past three years, the total volume of American trade with Iran has seen a considerable rise, and more US companies are involved in trading with Iran.

Iran's main problem, however, has been the continuing drop in the price of crude oil, which has created very unstable and shaky conditions for the Iranian economy. Iran has been trying hard to get the OPEC countries to agree on a fixed, lower-than-usual quota in order to boost the price of oil. Iran has even tried to "normalize" relations with Saudi Arabia, the other major oil-producing

country in the region. But efforts to persuade the Saudis to lower their production level have so far proven futile.

Iran has failed to make any dent in lessening its dependence on oil revenues, which account for 85 percent of its foreign exchange. It is estimated that every one dollar fall in the international price of oil results in a loss of one billion dollar in Iran's annual revenues. In 1993, Iran saw its revenue from oil exports drop to \$11.5 billion from the previous annual average of \$17 billion due to the drastic decline in oil prices.

There is mounting criticism of the government's economic policy among some of the ruling mullahs and the general population. The government's austerity measures are being compared to those which the International Monetary Fund forces on its victims. Privatization and reduction of subsidies are giving away to unprecedented levels of anger and dissatisfaction among the population. Many basic necessities have either vanished or can be found only at prices which are about 30 percent inflated. Those who are on fixed incomes are being hit especially hard. Ali Akbar Naeq Nouri, the speaker of the Iranian Majlis (parliament), recently admitted that the legislature wanted to postpone the start of the second five-year

year "because one cannot study a plan in crisis."

The Tehran-based *Kayhan International*, in an editorial last year made no bones about the alarming state of the country's economic woes. It said that the situation will get worse, not better. "Gallop inflation, open mismanagement of the economic sector, indifference toward the common strata who are the main supporters of President Rafsanjani (and) decline in the international price of oil will all get together to make life intolerable and miserable for this nation of over 60 million people." In a veiled reference to the ways things were during the last years of the Shah, it added: "Of course the affluent and the influential need not worry about (Finance Minister) Adel's decisions. The value of their properties, movable and immovable, is appreciating in a manner unprecedented in recent memory." It also questioned the regime's constant rhetoric about justice and equality. The entire concept of social justice in Iran was never considered an easy venture, the editorial said. "Off and on, our political leaders do express their 'wish' to work selflessly for that cause. But it seems that justice is last in the queue. If current trends are any indication, it warned, "the turn for social justice may never come." ■

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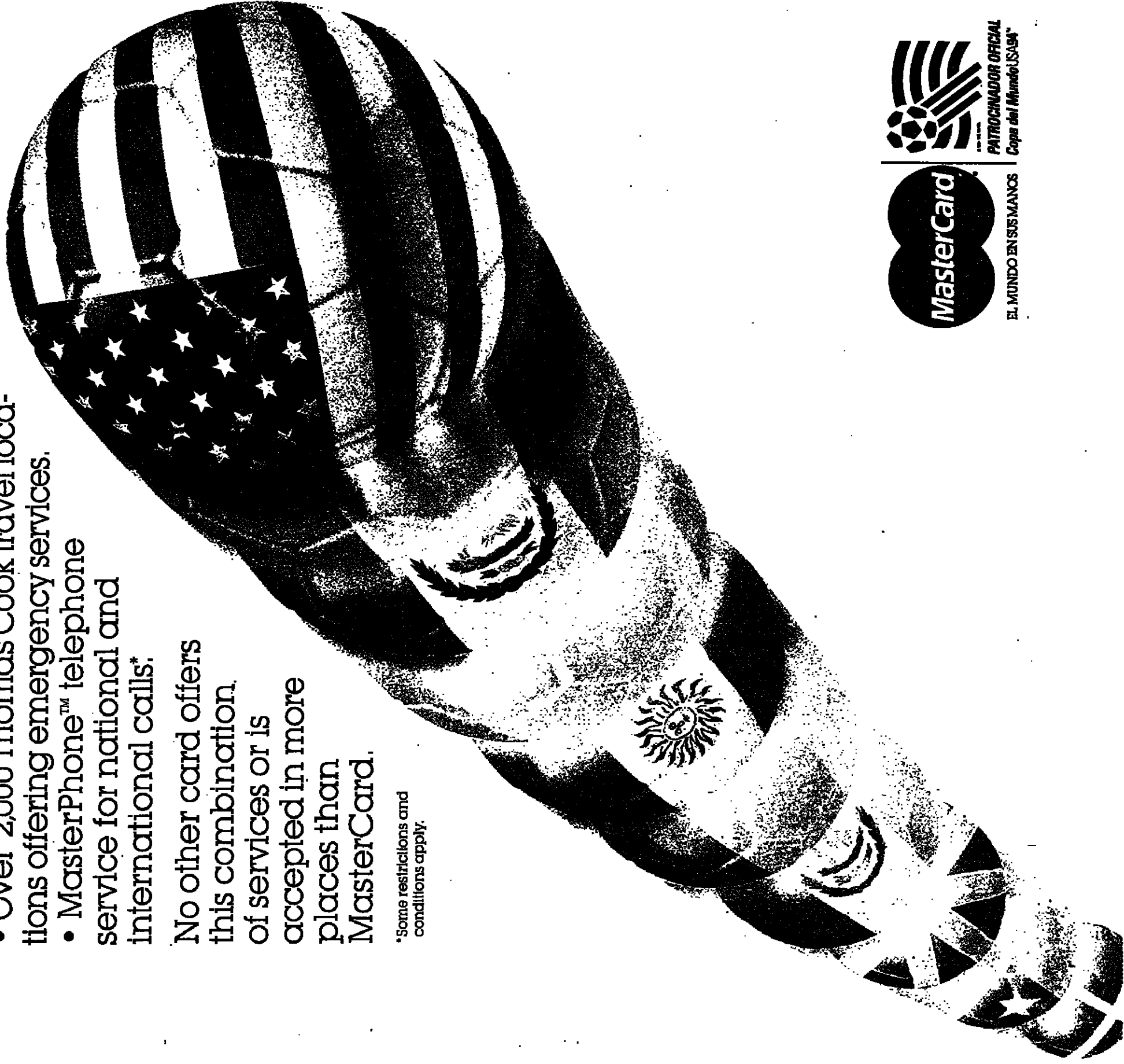
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*Indians take up arms
in the battle between identity and prosperity*

Crashing the party

By SERGIO SARMIENTO in Mexico City



THE GUNFIRE which took hold of Mexico's future in the southern state of Chiapas did not sound threatening—more like firecrackers than anything else. Yet, as 1993 gave way to the New Year, that gunfire reminded the rest of the world that the bill for taking away a people's future always comes due. It is a lesson that can be applied in every continent.

During the course of that long night hundreds of dark-skinned men, accompanied by a few women and children, descended from the Lacandon jungle and seized control of the main towns in the Chiapas highlands. There was not much resistance at first. Two policemen were killed as they tried to prevent the occupation of Ocosingo's town hall, but everywhere else people were either sound asleep or so busy celebrating the New Year that they did not notice what was going on.

The news of this assault seeped slowly out over the next few hours. Once they had secured their objectives, the rebels waited for the inevitable pack of journalists to show up. As reporters and cameramen flocked into the occupied area, conver-

The uprising didn't pose a major military threat to the government, but it had a political impact, in part because it was timed to coincide with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that Salinas' administration had laboriously negotiated over the past four years. NAFTA, according to the rebels, represents "the final death knell" for Mexico's Indian population.

Despite the political thrust of the Indians' demands, which included reforms aimed at breaking the Institutional Revolutionary Party's 65-year-old monopoly on power, this was an ethnic revolt, not a leftist coup. The collapse of communism is not truly understood by the Indian population, who have little education, though it has given a sense of urgency to the work of leftist political organizers.

For different reasons, the Indians believe time is running out in their centuries long struggle to reconcile an independent identity with economic security in the white man's world. Ironically, the uprising took place against a background of rising expectations. Fueled by a declining mortality rate that has boosted the region's population, these expectations appear to be more explosive than outright destitution.

An indigenous protest—Zapatista rebels in Chiapas.

ing on the beautiful colonial town of San Cristobal de Las Casas, they were informed that the rebels—who called themselves Zapatistas—represented the Indians, intended to declare war on the Mexican army, and planned to march into Mexico City and depose President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Sergio Sarmiento is editor-in-chief of Enciclopedia Britannica Publishers, Inc. in Mexico City.

Continued on next page

Crashing the party

Continued from previous page

It has been 500 years since the Spanish arrived in Mexico and 173 years have passed since the country achieved its independence, but Mexico's Indians—holders of the proud civilizations of the Mayans, Aztecs and Purépechas—remain at the bottom of the country's social pyramid. There is nothing unique about this. Almost without exception, the native populations of the New World have been exterminated or banished to the bottom rungs of society.

Of sheer sadness

Why has this happened? Why have people descended from civilizations that dazzled the first Europeans to set foot in the Americas been reduced to such a miserable state?

There is no simple answer. The indigenous people of North and South America were massacred in some countries, such as the US and Argentina, and virtually enslaved in others. Everywhere, however, the physical world of native Americans was destroyed. European settlers fenced the great plains of North America and killed the buffalo, effectively destroying the traditional Indian way of life. Those who tried to fight either died in unequal wars against the US army, or, in a tragedy of their previous existence, found themselves exiling out a living on barren reservations. In Mexico and South America, Indian nobles, merchants and warriors were compelled to dig for gold and silver in dangerous, poorly ventilated mines or till the land for their new Spanish masters. Their wives and daughters were raped, their deities replaced by a strange new array of gods and saints. Their traditional languages gave way to Spanish and Portuguese, the languages of their new masters.

A 16th century writer in Mexico pointed out that many Indians escaped the mines and fields, only to head into the hills and mount something they could never quite explain. "They go to the hills and die of sheer sadness," he wrote.

Tied to, and shackled by, the land

The historical grievances, however, do not explain the entire situation. The Indians themselves are torn between a desire to cling to their traditional values and their inclination to merge with the modern societies around them.

In Mexico, roughly half of the Indian population has moved into the cities, forgetting their language and their culture in the process. Those Indians that remained behind in the rural areas are finding that the land can no longer provide the sustenance they require. Changing attitudes inside and outside Mexico are causing their share of problems, too.

The Lacandon jungle, for example, is one of the few surviving tropical rain forests in the world. It's destruction would be an ecological disaster for all mankind and would likely lead to changes in the

Earth's climate. The Mexican government has acknowledged this by making the jungle a protected ecological reserve. One consequence of this step, however, has been to prevent the Indians from exploiting the resources of the jungle, an area that belonged to them for thousands of years, thus aggravating their traditional poverty.

The members of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation believe the solution is simple. They argue that all Mexico's available land should be distributed to landless peasants, banning their holdings that prevent every peasant from having a piece of land.

Same pie, bigger share for Zapatistas

Mexican government wants to give local demands and national reform.

On March 2, nine weeks after the opening of the Congress began, the representatives of the Mexican Government met the Zapatista leaders in a rooming house in Mexico City. The meeting was a tense, but not a hostile, one. The government representatives were in a rooming house, the Zapatistas in a rooming house. The government representatives were in a rooming house, the Zapatistas in a rooming house. The government representatives were in a rooming house, the Zapatistas in a rooming house.

Mexico can rightfully claim to have conducted one of the most extensive reforms of land ownership in the world's history. That reform, however, has not lifted the peasants out of poverty. It has actually made it worse. Chiapas has the second largest number of communal farms among Mexican states, and it is the distribution of land were the key to prosperity, it would be one of the richest states in the union. Instead, it is one of the poorest, its agricultural productivity lagging far behind states like Sinaloa, where small farms predominate.

Left on the lurching pad
It is difficult, if not impossible, to separate the problems of agricultural production and those of the Indian population in Mexico and South America.

development policies. Its main focus, however, is on the economic and social conditions of the population in the state of Chiapas. It calls for measures such as agricultural reform, land redistribution, doubling of rural electricity, health projects in Chiapas, new health centers, and more scholarships for Indian children.

Numbers that do not work

Keeping the Indian's traditional link with the land is a nice concept, but it no longer seems feasible in Mexico and other Latin American countries. In 1910, when the Mexican Revolution erupted, there were only 450,000 people living in Chiapas. An equitable land distribution then would have given everybody 16 hectares—including jungle and mountain slopes, neither of which are useful for agriculture. Today, however, the state's population is 3.2 million and the same distribution would give everybody 2 hectares, barely enough for subsistence farming.

Neither Mexico nor Latin America are exempt from the kind of population and labor displacement that took place in the developed nations as a result of the industrial revolution. Rejecting NAFTA is a romantic gesture that would merely delay the inevitable.

So far, it appears that the impact of the Chiapas uprising will be confined to Mexico, even though the underlying causes are common to many Latin American countries. With the exception of Central America, Mexico is too far away from the rest of Latin America and, curiously enough, its links with most South American countries are relatively small.

Entering the modern world will be traumatic for the Indian populations of Mexico and Latin America. But land reform, the miracle cure for 75 years, has not been the answer. It is time to try new, more realistic ways to give the Indians hope so that they will no longer have to choose between their identity and a prosperous life.

Crashing the untouchable

BY SHARMA JOSHI in Bombay

INDIA'S DALITS do not need to fight for their identity. It has been set in stone for nearly 2,000 years, a religious barrier that has kept power and prosperity out of the reach of millions of "untouchables" regardless of their ethnic background. But fighting against your identity, as the Dalits are now doing, remains a difficult and self-destructive process.

Dalits form the lowest rung of the deeply entrenched caste order in Hinduism which perpetuates social and professional discrimination. The subjugation, whereby Dalits are denied equal social rights and relegated to caste-determined, low-status professions such as sweeping and scavenging, has been a part of Hindu society for over 65 generations.

The Dalits have begun to learn how the political and economic games are played. A willingness by some to use force has also drawn attention to their situation, but despite the much-heralded case of Phoolan Devi, the "Bandit Queen" who was released from prison in February after serving 11 years for her role in the murder of 22 upper-caste men, lower-caste Indians are more often than not at the receiving end of violence.

The Dalits have made significant gains, but have suffered from the ability of upper-caste Hindus to divide them politically. Success has also threatened to erode the cohesive identity which is the Dalit's strongest card.

That identity is expressed by Dalit poet Naregan Surve, who wrote, "I had neither home nor caste, merely has the land under my moving feet/Shop awnings were there, free municipal sidewalks were open to me/While being cast and recast in this outcaste's life."

The poem speaks of a metaphorical university of learning the harsh realities of life. In real life, such a university made headlines news. On January 14, 1994, after a delay of 16 years, the Maharashtra University was renamed the Babasaheb Ambedkar Maharashtra University.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who was the chief draftsman of India's constitution, is a Dalit. He is a Dalit who specializes in social issues.

Sharma Joshi is a freelance writer based in Bombay who specializes in social issues.

tion, is a leader of prime significance for the Dalits. He believed that since Hinduism was founded on scriptures that sanctioned an exploitive, caste-based social order, a just solution could only be founded on a new edifice. In 1956, he converted to Buddhism. This was followed on October 14, 1956 by mass conversions among the untouchables in the state of Maharashtra to neo-Buddhism.

Two decades later, on July 27, 1978, the Maharashtra legislature passed a resolution to rename the state university after Ambedkar. The prolonged, severe opposition to renaming a university after a national leader indicates the depth of upper caste animosity against the struggle to attain equality by the most underprivileged section of Indian society.

It was the British who developed much of the terminology used in this ongoing struggle. In 1935 the British government in India, for bureaucratic purposes, formulated a list of all the "backward" sub-castes under the umbrella term "Scheduled Caste" (SC). All other Hindus who did not belong to the "upper" or "forward" castes were classified as "Other Backward Castes" (OBC). These terms are now the official forms of reference.

Those defined as SC constitute 15 percent of India's population, while 52 percent are defined as OBC.

Despite their numerical superiority, those in the lower castes have had difficulty translating numbers into political power. In 1972, inspired by the Black Panther movement in America, a new generation of fiery leaders formed the Dalit Panthers in Maharashtra.

By 1974, however, the Dalit Panthers started playing the same divisive politics that had plagued the Republican Party of India, founded some 20 years earlier. Both parties and their various splinter groups, with diverse political leanings, still exist in Maharashtra, but constitute a politically divided, incoherent opposition, with insignificant representation in the government.

The Indian government has passed several laws since the country became independent in 1947, which seek to punish discrimination against Dalits. Despite the laws and constitutional safeguards, however, the Dalits continue to be discriminated across caste lines.

Sharma Joshi is a freelance writer based in Bombay who specializes in social issues.

Downing of helicopters just one of a chain of failures

By John F Harris

WASHINGTON—Pentagon officials said last week the US fighter pilots who mistakenly shot down two helicopters over northern Iraq on Thursday acted after failing to receive a radio signal the helicopter team should have been emitting to identify themselves as friendly aircraft.

Moments before the Air Force F-15Cs shot down the helicopters carrying 26 American and allied personnel, they electronically queried the aircraft using a system known as IFF, which stands for "Identification Friend-or-Foe." A device known as a transponder was supposed to flash back a signal identifying the helicopters, but military officials said that did not happen.

"It is my understanding that visual identification was made. IFF interrogation was conducted and no friendly response was received," said Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But the failure of the electronic identification system was just one breakdown in a chain of mystifying failures that led to the catastrophe. Defense Secretary William J. Perry and Shalikashvili, who appeared together at a Pentagon news briefing, said they are still far from understanding what went wrong.

There are half a dozen procedures that we have in place any one of which, if it had been working, could have prevented this accident," said Perry. "They didn't have to all operate, just one of them had to operate, and this accident would not have happened."

Perry did not detail all of the failed precautions, but among the questions he said he wants answered is why communications were "not effective" between the helicopter team and an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft using radar surveillance equipment to monitor the airspace.

He said he also wants to learn how it was that the F-15C pilots visually misidentified the US Army Black Hawk helicopters as Russian-made Hind helicopters belonging to Iraq. Pentagon officials displayed charts Friday suggesting a Black Hawk carrying external fuel tanks—as the two were Thursday—is about the size of a Hind.

But the officials steadfastly refused to elaborate on what interviews with the pilots and others have revealed so far.

One reason the misidentification is so bewildering is that all the aircraft—the AWACS, the F-15Cs, and the helicopters—were reportedly briefed the day before the flights took place, so the helicopters' presence should have been no secret.

After getting no electronic signal from the helicopters, the Air Force pilots could have tried reaching them on voice radio. But Perry said this was not required under the rules of engagement for allied aircraft operating in northern Iraq, and he did not know whether any voice contact was attempted.

Flights were canceled Friday above the protected zone established by the United States and allies three years ago to protect Iraq's Kurdish minority from persecution by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But Perry said the flights that are part of Operation Provide Comfort will begin again following a change in safety procedures that he refused to explain, citing security concerns.

He said an investigating team appointed to get to the bottom of the debacle had arrived at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. The team is being headed by US Maj Gen James G. Andrus, commander of the Third Air Force based at RAF Mildenhall in Britain.

President Clinton met with his national security team last week to discuss the tragedy. "We are going to stay on top of this, work it through, and make a full report to the American people," Clinton told reporters.

Military officials and civilian aviation experts said there were several reasons why the Black Hawks' identification system might have failed when the helicopters were electronically queried by the F-15Cs. After turning the transponder off while making a brief stop in the Iraqi town of Zakhu, pilots might have failed to turn it back on when departing for a meeting with Kurdish leaders in Salahuddin.

Another possibility is the device also might have not been set properly to transmit the predetermined code that would properly have identified the helicopters, or the transponder might simply have broken down in flight. Finally, it is conceivable the F-15Cs' equipment for receiving a transponder signal broke down, although electronics industry officials said this is less plausible.

All these scenarios could explain why the



F-15C pilots had trouble identifying the Black Hawks as American aircraft. But aviation experts said it remains unclear why personnel in the AWACS plane, which was supposed to be keeping close track of all aircraft in the area, apparently lost control of the operation.

"The thing that's a stunner to me is how the AWACS let the whole thing get out of hand," said Gerry Lear, aviation attorney and former Marine helicopter pilot. "They're the battlefield coordinator. That's why they're up there."

After getting no response from the IFF transponders, Pentagon officials said the Air Force pilots made two passes from above the helicopters in an attempt to identify them visually. The fighter pilots were not required to get approval from the AWACS before firing. "The

procedures are that the aircraft, after making identification that the aircraft it is attacking is not friendly, is authorized to attack," Shalikashvili said.

But Lear said jets flying close enough to visually inspect helicopters should have been able to see the American flag and other markings identifying them as US aircraft. Robert W. Gaskin, a former Air Force fighter pilot who now works for Business Executives, said he learned from sources within the Pentagon that the F-15Cs took the second of their passes at the request of AWACS controllers, suggesting they too were uncertain about what type of helicopters the jets had encountered.

LA-Washington Post News Service

Ralph Ellison, the Invisible Man, dies at 80

By Burt A Folkart

RALPH ELLISON, whose only novel, *Invisible Man*, became not only a searing examination and dramatic cry for racial understanding but a work cherished over four decades for its complex yet poignant literary style, died Saturday. He was 80.

Ellison, whose essays and novels propelled him into the front ranks of 20th-century American fiction, died of pancreatic cancer at his home in Harlem, New York, said Joe Fox, his editor at Random House, Ellison's publisher.

Fox said Ellison had been ill for only a short time. Random House had a party for him on 1 March to celebrate his 80th birthday and "he was perfectly fine," Fox said.

When *Invisible Man* was published in 1952, its author was a virtually unknown history and music student whose influences ranged from Langston Hughes to Mark Twain.

After 16 weeks on the bestseller lists and a National Book Award, Ralph Waldo Ellison had become a household name among readers, regardless of color. His lone published novel—he had worked on a second but most of the manuscript perished in a fire—has not been out of print since.

Critics, scholars and readers see it as a convoluted study of a young black man who is struggling to affirm and make meaningful his race. He makes war on the twin standards of segregation that had forced him out of the mainstream and made him feel that he was less than a man.

Ellison himself was not only a sensitive youth in some conflict with his color, but an English scholar fascinated with the literature of his time.

His contention that American blacks were invisible because they were seen only as stereotypes, was couched in the classic, stylistic tumult of TS Eliot and the psychological myth of James Joyce.

Ellison found the impetus and strength to respond to the stereotype in the popular music of his day, saying years later that blues singer Jimmy Rushing "represented, gave voice to, something which was very affirming of Negro life, feelings which you

couldn't really put into words." But it was a Fats Waller lyric that he credited with driving him to focus the painful introspection of autobiography that was evidenced in *Invisible Man*.

"What did I do," asked the plaintive refrain, "to be so black and blue?"

The first lines of *Invisible Man* have become among the best known in American literature:

"I am an invisible man. No, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allan Poe; nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids—and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me."

The book tells of a young man from the South who journeys to Harlem.

The nameless narrator finds a symbol of oppression there that Ellison dubbed the "Monopolized Light and Power Company." The central character moves from sight to blindness, from shadow to sun, as he battles the monolith in a plot difficult to summarize because of its personal and literary allusions.

The Negro (Ellison generally preferred that word to black) protagonist even incurs the enmity of his own people while managing to somehow drain power

Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Swedish and Japanese.

Ellison later published two collections of essays and was working on restoring his second novel at the time of his death.

Unlike his narrator, Ellison was not a true son of the South. He was born in Oklahoma City to a construction worker father who died when he was three years old and raised by his mother who did domestic work to support them. But he said he still found in that frontier land vestiges of racial prejudice despite the more fluid relationships between whites and blacks.

In interviews, he loved to talk of how the city had set up a separate library for blacks but a black minister continued to insist on using the main, segregated branch.

City officials became disgusted and threw great piles of books into an abandoned pool hall. As a result, young Ellison found himself with free access to the world's greatest minds.

He spent three years studying classical composition at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute and then headed to New York, where, like his protagonist in the novel, he became a writer. He came under the guidance of Richard Wright, the most prominent black writer of the time. Wright introduced him to *Native Son*.

Ellison himself was not only a sensitive youth in some conflict with his color, but an English scholar fascinated with the literature of his time

(control) from his archive.

The mysterious journey takes place above ground except for Prologue and Epilogue, which occur in the narrator's Underground Chamber near Harlem.

"Who knows," the narrator wonders at the end, "but that on the lower frequencies, I speak for you?"

Invisible Man has been called a near-perfect example of the German Bildungsroman, or a psychological and educational work that both informs and entertains.

Invisible Man has been translated into Czech, Danish, Dutch,

Wright's early, definitive work of the black experience, while poet Hughes introduced Ellison to Andre Malraux, the French essayist and Marxist. Ellison said he took the best from both while also falling under the influence of Dostoevsky, Conrad, Eliot and Joyce. Wright was the first to publish Ellison's writings in a magazine he was then editing.

During World War II, Ellison served in the Merchant Marine and returned ready to write a poem about a black American soldier captured by the Germans. What happened instead, he



A young black in America

said, was that he was obsessed with his existence that he saw only as 'invisible.' The book that came from that dark thought took seven years to write.

Ellison did not live long enough to completely reconstruct his second novel, which he said featured the childhood reminiscences of Cleothus, at 300 pounds the biggest kid in the first grade. He did publish the two collections of essays, "Shadow and Act" in 1964 and "Going to the Territory" in 1986.

Ellison taught and lectured at Yale, Rutgers, New York, the University of Chicago and Bard College in New York.

His awards included the nation's highest civilian honor—the Medal of Freedom—and membership in its most prestigious literary organization, the American Academy Institute of Arts and Letters.

In his late years Ellison said he had sought to create works of literary merit built on scaffolds of social causes.

Ellison is survived by his wife, Fanny, and a brother.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

El Saadawi

Continues patriarchy campaign

The Innocence of the Devil, by Nawal el Saadawi, Methuen, 234 pp, £14.99.

Reviewed By Laura Cummings

SOME YEARS ago, when Nawal el Saadawi had government guards outside her house who

Book Review

claimed to be protecting her life, she wrote that the hostility between herself and the Egyptian police went back 5,000 years to the time when men overthrew Isis, goddess of knowledge and Ma'at, goddess of justice. This was no mere rhetoric. The millennial reach is a vital part of her sustained assault on patriarchy. It strengthens her nonfiction, but it has a damaging effect on her novels. Determined to generalize centuries of female suffering, Saadawi creates an historical fic-

tion in which women are reduced to symbols of sexual oppression and men are their interchangeable torturers.

The Innocence of the Devil is even given a symbolic location, a mental hospital near the Pyramids which was once a Pharaonic palace. The female inmates are kept submissive with beatings and electric shocks administered by the nameless Director. The Director works for the President. The President reports to the King who listens to the Imam who controls the Grandfather and the Father in another patriarchal structure. All these men have a big, cartilaginous hook of a nose, and the higher up the pyramid, so to speak, the more likely they are to have a head "the color of white granite, ending in a pyramidal shape." Ganat, a fiery new arrival at the hospital, had refused to obey the Headmen, and was thus considered to be mad.

Ganat is one of three women whose stories are related in a circling, hallucinatory prose which mingles passages from the Koran and the Bible with accounts of early sexual violence, dreams of



Saadawi

semi-human animals and fantasies of freedom suggested by summer breezes rustling through tall corn and white butterflies dancing against blue skies. In their description of the book, the publishers appear not to have noticed that there are in fact three women, but perhaps it's not so surprising since their identities are soon confused among the surreal imagery and stock motifs. Some attempt is made at the end of the book to distinguish Ganat, Nefiss and Narguiss in terms of their respective ambitions to be a

poet, a dancer and a lesbian, but even this is overridden by Saadawi's main aim to line up expressions of female freedom against catalogues of male tyranny.

Nawal el Saadawi's novels always represent the continuing barbarity of virginity tests before marriage, of clitoridectomy, of fundamentalist disgust with the female body and the double standards which operate in marriage and in law. And her naïve iconography never varies.

The title of this book suggests a new ambivalence, the idea that no one is wholly good or evil. And the Devil does appear to co-exist with God in the shape of a shadowy, turbaned form which haunts the hospital grounds. But the intellectual argument turns out to be as nebulous as the ghost itself, wafted aside as if it were too complex or flimsy to bother with. This is a pity, since the rigid binary oppositions within her novels construct the purpose Saadawi avows in her non-fiction, which is to campaign against patriarchy as oppressive to men as it is to women.

Guardian Weekly

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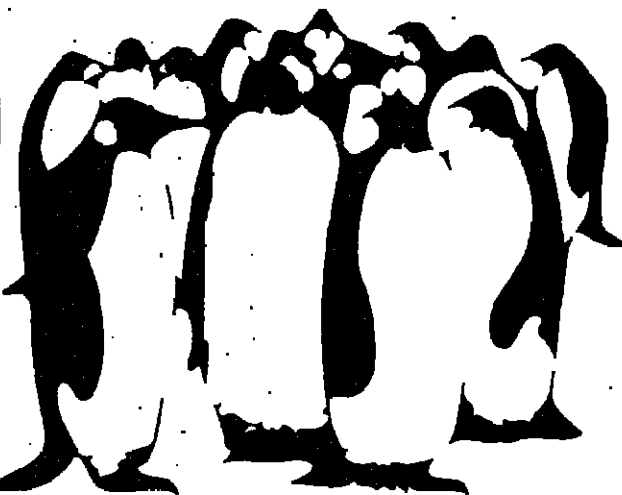
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AROUND
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Naji Al Ali

Death be not proud

By Adnan Yahya and
Mahmoud Al Abed
Special to The Star

THE TIME and place of the crime may differ, but it's always the same blood that is shed, the same killer and the same prey. It is the Palestinian who is always a "candidate for death," as if he were sooner or later to meet his doom and deserved retribution. The only good Palestinian for the Zionists is a dead one.

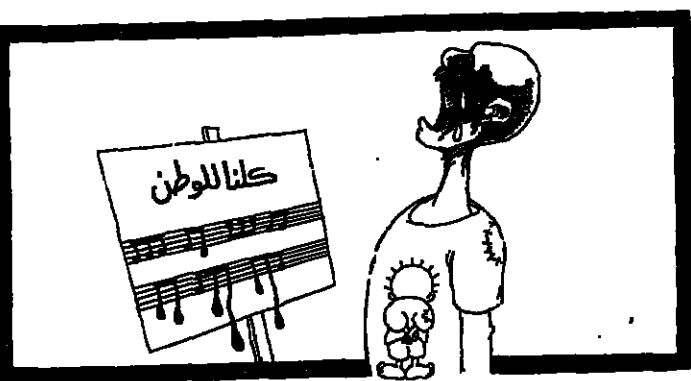
The assassination of the greatest Palestinian and Arab cartoonist Naji Al Ali was one in the chain of murders targeting creative figures in the Palestinian march towards liberation—such as Ghassan Kanafani in Beirut, Abu Jihad in Tunis, Khaled Nazzari in Athens and Majid Abu Sharar in Madrid—apparently an endless path of massacres and bloodshed. Tragically enough, the Palestinian

people cannot judge which murder has been the cruelest or martyr the dearest. Paradoxically, the butcher always tries to put the world's mind at ease by the misleading justification of warring against terrorism.

Born in the village of Shajara in Palestine in 1936, Al Ali fled Palestine to settle with his family in Lebanon. In search of a living and a dignified life, he joined the streams of Palestinians who headed for Kuwait. After that he returned to Lebanon to work for *Al Safir* newspaper for 10 years before going back to Kuwait to draw cartoons in *Al Qabas* daily. He lived his last days in London where he was killed in 1988.

Naji's record as an artist is full of grace. Besides the many solo exhibitions of his cartoons, (some after his death), he was the secretary general of the Association of Arab Cartoonists, a founding member of the Palestinian Artists' Association, and a member in the general secretariat of the General Association of Palestinian Writers and Journalists. He was awarded many prizes in Arab and international exhibitions.

People say that the greatest Arab poet, Abbas Al Muta'nabi was killed because of his art, and because of his poems in particular. This could be true of Al Ali as well, especially since he adopted "black comedy," a French school of caricature based on irony and evoking readers' emotions to the limits. Naji lived his own life the same way when dealing with events in the Arab and Palestinian political life. He supported the ordinary man against his internal and external enemies, so Naji the artist



became a popular hero. This is what distinguishes Naji from Al Muta'nabi whose art only served his own personal aspirations. Al Ali, however, dedicated his art to the most noble of causes—the enlightenment and lifting of the oppression against his people. The ideals he believed in and preached were so revolutionary they led eventually to his death.

Like Chekhov, the great Russian writer and playwright, Al Ali's figures were simple. And yet, the characters are subject to other people's tyranny and injustice. Al Ali also reminds us of the caricaturist Doreau when depicting them as ugly swelling figures.

Wordsworth once said, "The child is the father of man, maybe." Al Ali's belief in this led him to bridge all the true humans in one child—Hanzhala. Present in all of Al Ali's cartoons, Hanzhala is the faithful guardian who observes what is going around with much patience and much pain. "This figure that I have created," said the artist, "will certainly not vanish when I am gone. I do not exaggerate when I say that I may survive through him after my death. Another time

he said, "Hanzhala is the naughty Palestinian kid, the same old picture of rebelliousness and naughtiness of a homeless refugee who overcame his pain and sorrows..."

With his celebrated figures, Al Ali, who never attended art school, gained universality and pre-eminence to such an extent that *Newsweek* commented, "When looking at Naji Al Ali's drawings, you can tell how the Arabs view America."

After Al Ali's death, poet Mahmoud Darwish said, "He is the martyr of our culture." Dr. Nabil Al Sharif wrote: "Naji Al Ali will stay alive despite the bullets of treason, we will always take his art as a lantern, and it will remain a thorn in the throats of the traitors." Describing his life and suffering as an enterprise of martyrdom, Dr. Asa'ad Abdel Rahman wrote, "Naji Al Ali was as gentle and hard as a diamond; the charcoal he drew with was a product of the fire of his agony." In his column, journalist Fakr al-Saleh declared, "Naji Al Ali shortens the road to Palestine. His art is so deep, full of cynicism and able to uncover the irony implied in the cruel reality."

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But the biggest shock of all is that JTV itself violates the Jordanian copyright law. Abu Nawar and Ayeda were shocked when they saw their songs being broadcast on Arab satellite networks without their knowledge. Abu Nawar was furious with JTV because they were the only station that had video copies of their songs.

The least JTV could have done is pay Mirage royalties for their huge effort. "This is totally absurd," says Ayeda and Abu Nawar. "They have even undermined, or rather ruined our chances to sell our songs."

The way out of this situation, says Abu Nawar, is for the Government to implement the copyright law, for JTV to support Jordanian art and for officials responsible for the situation to

Ab'aad Art Gallery exhibits
variety of oil paintings

AB'AAD ART Gallery is hosting an exhibition by six artists that will run until 27 April. The exhibition contains the works of Alia Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind Naser, Janine Saaf, Lucy Marto and Tete Wegelius. The exhibiting artists vary in style between realist to abstract painting. Four of the artists, except Hind Naser and Alia Ammoura, are exhibiting their oil paintings for the first time. Still life is the dominant subject occupying most of the canvases. For example, scenes from sites like Wadi Rum, Iraq, El Amir and other places can be seen. The exhibition also contains Hind Naser's first attempt at a monotyping.

Alia Ammoura and Hind Naser's paintings were the most notable amongst other exhibited works, both using the language of abstraction to serve their subjectivity. Alia Ammoura commented that the exhibition is a "delightful and soothing place to be in, away from the troubles of life."

Painting by Hind Naser

Duke of Kent to open new
library at British Council

TODAY, THURSDAY April 21st at 6pm. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent will officially open the new library and information service at the British Council on Rainbow Street.

Ever since 1948, when the British Council first opened its office in Amman it has provided a library service. In 1959 when the British Council built and moved into its present accommodation on Rainbow Street, a purpose built library was created on the ground floor, along with a theater and stage.

However, over the years methods of information provision have evolved, and the British Council's information service has changed considerably since the forties and fifties. Computer programs and databases, video and audio facilities, magazine and newspapers, all take their place with the books in the library.

In order to accommodate such facilities, the physical space of the library has had to change, and in the first three months of this year, major renovation and refurbishment works have been taking place at the British Council's Rainbow Street building.

In fact, the library and theater have exchange places, and the library now occupies a large open area at the back of the building looking out over the garden.

The British Council library still offers its members a wide range of lending and reference books. In addition, it now houses a video lending library containing British entertainment, educational and management videos.

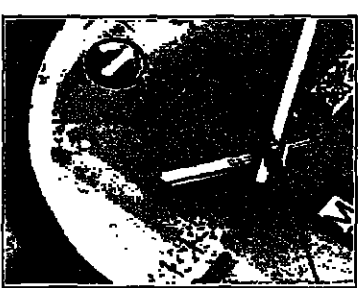
Customers can also use one of the five CD-Rom databases available covering subjects such as medicine (MEDLINE); study in Britain (ECCTISA), as well as British research and journal articles and bibliographies on all subjects.

Rado introduces Chronometer for
exceptional accuracy

SINCE THE launching in 1962 of the legendary oval DiaStar—the world's first scratchproof watch—nearly two million have been sold. Its unbroken success, its popularity and its enduring value give good reason for the present launching of the first Rado chronometer.

The unmistakable form, the scratchproofness and the unique brilliance have remained unchanged. What is new is the movement of the DiaStar "Chronometer," which guarantees exceptional accuracy. Thus the oval Chronometer is the ideal watch for people who absolutely need the greatest possible precision but still prefer an automatic movement and the classical oval shape.

The new Rado "Chronometer" is now available at good watch retailers.



APRIL 1994 The National Music Conservatory, West Al Hussein Foundation
THE FIRST QUARTET FESTIVAL IN JORDAN



Tuesday & Wednesday, 26 & 27

THE MOZARTEUM QUARTET
OF SALZBURGHOTEL INTER. CONTINENTAL JORDAN
THE GRAND BALLROOM

JD 25 (with dinner)

In cooperation with
The Austrian EmbassyTickets are available from:
Hotel Inter Continental Jordan, 641 361Mirage:
Standing against overwhelming oddsBy Haitham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

WHEN JAMAL Al Taher, founder of the Jordanian band Mirage with Wael Abu Nawar, decided to check out a year ago, it was no big surprise. Since the band started in 1984, Al Taher and Abu Nawar faced frustrations and obstacles for nine consecutive years. The solution: to leave the music scene altogether to pursue different interests.

From 1984 until the present, Mirage has followed the same line of music that of rock oriented. The only difference now is that they do many songs in Arabic and some in English. They present Arabic songs, according to Abu Nawar, in an international style just as they did before with their English compositions, the exception now being the difference in language.

Abu Nawar is now left with wife and vocalist of the band Ayeda to face a deluge of overwhelming odds. For Mirage however, it hasn't been all rosy. They can't release albums, although they have an abundance of material, for the lack of enforcing the copyright law passed in 1992. Abu Nawar says the Government is issuing licenses to people "whose job is to steal my work." These people, who copy other's tapes without their consent, don't mind this in the least because the Government itself does not care about the arts, adding that "it [art] does not even exist on the Government's working agenda."

"The conclusion, in fact, al-



Ayeda, Mirage vocalist

ready a living reality, is that our art is poor simply because there is no protection of copyright. It is a strange case. If the Government does not want to implement the law, why draft it in the first place?" Abu Nawar asks sarcastically "is it to show the UN and the rest of the world we are civilized? I say there is no law because it has not yet been put into action."

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Mirage co-founder, Abu Nawar

realize that art is not a luxury item we can do without. But if none of this is realized, Ayeda and Abu Nawar will pack their bags and leave to establish themselves somewhere else. "We have to seek our future somewhere else although we wish we don't have to," concluded Ayeda and Abu Nawar.

The frustration and anger which will eventually make them leave the local scene is a sad-

ing reality. Although what I had in mind was to discuss with them their current productions, I refrained. Their sheer anger and frustration made me sympathize totally with them. Although I don't necessarily agree with their music, we should no longer have to put up with the act of killing art in the cradle. It is time to face the fact that we, unfortunately, have no music scene in the real sense in Jordan.

Dr. Frankenstein vacations in Hawaii

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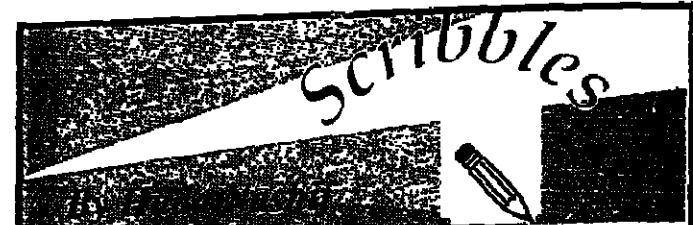
Dr. Frankenstein vacations in Hawaii

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Dr. Frankenstein vacations in Hawaii



Plans for the summer....

THE HEAT wave is already here and we haven't even fully enjoyed Spring yet!

I keep wondering what the real Summer season holds for us. I'm looking forward to it, but at the same time can't imagine what the heat's going to be like!

Already we're planning and thinking about what the coming months will be like... everyone's anxious about the Summer and their plans. We all wonder what we're going to do, where and how we're going to spend it... but I never once thought of spending the 10-day vacation we do have here in Jordan.

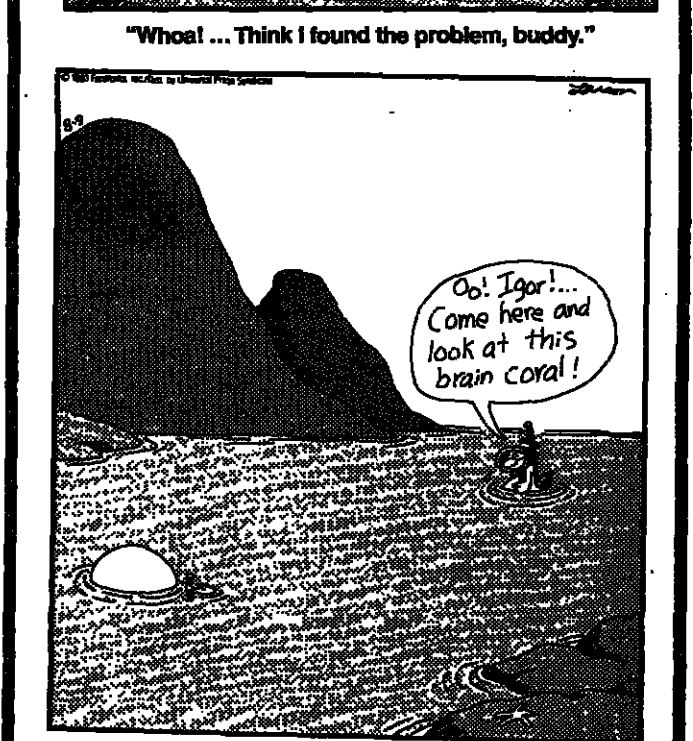
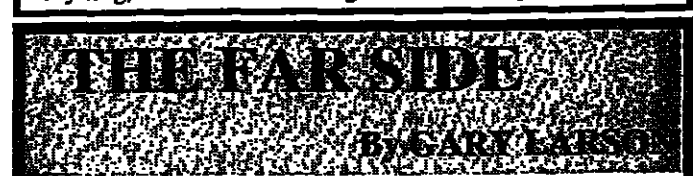
There's always Aqaba, true. The perfect vacation for children—a sea resort. But there's not enough to do. I'd generally rather spend a little more money and enjoy a longer stretch of beach, better facilities, night life and hotel accommodations. I remember my last trip to Aqaba which wasn't so bad... but then I thought about what I actually did... I was merely a beach bum looking after my year-old son. There was nothing to do in the afternoon. We'd eat late, browse around the primitive town, dine in fast food restaurants (not even by the sea) and then walk back to our hotel and call it a night... It's relaxing, true, but you can't be in Aqaba more than a couple of nights. I wish there facilities for bicycle or moped hiring, a flat-o-tel (close to the beach) a Luna Park (for all ages) and more sports activities (with reasonable prices). Aqaba is out of the question then.

The Dead Sea is truly dead from anybody's point of view. It's too hot to even vaguely consider during the hot summer months. To sleep over more than one night is not even worth considering. The rooms are sparsely furnished with air conditioning which hardly works, and there really is nothing to do there... The food leaves a great deal to be desired and there's nothing to do there whatsoever... The Dead Sea, then, is out of the question, too.

I haven't been to Mae'en yet, after the many negative reports I've heard from people. If I were to consider going, it would only be for an overnight. Although the idea of a natural waterfall seems refreshing, one can't spend all day under it! There should be some sort of activities there to help entertain you... Mae'en is out of the question.

Most of the other tourist attractions have inadequate facilities and are only good for day trips... I presume we have but one choice—to go abroad.

It is a tremendous loss for the country to have everyone think in these terms... but we have no choice. We really don't have anything, in terms of vacationing, to even remotely consider...



The Star's GUIDE

Fresh Prince of Bel Air
Programs on JTV
from 23—29 April
Saturday at 9:10

ENGLISH PROGRAMS SATURDAY

7:45 — Charlie Chaplin, some of Chaplin's silent movies
8:30 — Fresh Prince of Bel Air. William amuses the kids with his stories about his crazy days at Bel Air Academy.
9:00 — One To One.
9:30 — The Campbells
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — Feature Film: Making A Case For Murder. The case of a group of white Americans put on trial for killing one of three blacks they attacked at Howard Beach in California.

SUNDAY

8:30 — You Bet Your Life, hosted by Bill Cosby.
8:55 — Zero One, a science program
9:10 — Stolen Lives (Ep. 3). The agony of the real mother intensifies as the police fail to find even a trace.
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — Island Son. An undercover policeman sets off to kill hookers while he's off duty; saving men from falling prey to such women becomes his obsession.
11:10 — The Upper Hand

MONDAY

7:45 — Science World
8:30 — The Nanny. The father agrees that Maggie can go out on a date with Eddy, on condition that the nanny acts as chaperon.
9:10 — Pandora's Box: To The Brink of Eternity. A documentary that talks about the cold war between the US and the former Soviet Union.
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — Black Powder. An Arabic series, subtitled in English.
11:10 — Top Cops

TUESDAY

7:45 — Medicinal Drugs. Topics include: High blood pressure—its causes and treatment, and new drugs for diabetes.
8:30 — Step by Step
8:55 — Beyond 2000
9:10 — Moon Over Miami
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — The Cape Rebel.
11:10 — The Second Half. John is in the spotlight and gossip surrounds him as he is seen in the company of a beautiful young woman.

WEDNESDAY

7:45 — Great Moments in Science and Technology
8:30 — Too Close For Comfort
9:05 — The Best of Magic. Magic tricks and games are performed in front of an audience.
9:30 — The World of the Thirties
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — Foldark

THURSDAY

7:45 — Gillette World Sports Special
8:30 — Bony. An accident at a chemical plant which releases poisonous materials makes Bony wonder who would benefit.
10:00 — News at Ten
10:20 — Feature Film: Rear Window. Starring Grace Kelly and Jimmy Stewart. An Alfred Hitchcock film. Spending idle days in a wheelchair watching people, a helpless journalist happens to witness a murder.

FRIDAY

8:00 — Sixty minutes of Arabic news
9:10 — Scene of the Crime

Pandora's Box,
Monday at
9:10 pm

PROGRAMMES FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

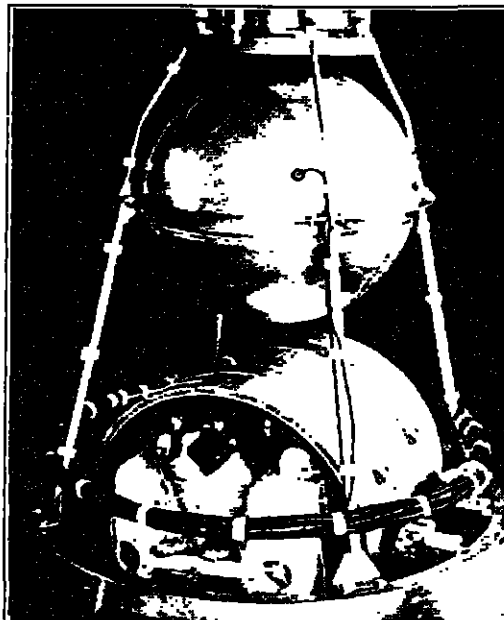
5:30 — Le Monde Sous-Marin
5:41 — Dossier De La Semaine
6:30 — Ushuaia
7:00 — Le Journal

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Le Monde Est A Vous
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Fant Pas Réver

LUNDI

5:30 — Les Aventuriers. De L'Espèce
6:30 — L'Ecole Des Fans
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Beaumanoir



MARDI

5:30 — Envoyé Spécial Magazine
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Grands Galops

MERCREDI

5:30 — Ordy
6:00 — Sports: NBA
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Le Journal De L'Histoire

JEUDI

5:30 — Taratata
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Le Monde Fantastique des Animaux

VENREDI

5:30 — Film: La Parisienne
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — E-M6



By Stacy Jenel Smith

New Age music man "Entertainment Tonight" host John Tesh blames his wife Connie Sellecca for inspiring his new "The John Tesh Project: Sax By The Fire" — which Tesh produced and released via his own record label, but on which he does not perform. "Connie kept telling me, 'put more sax on the album' for my last record — which is a fine thing to tell a keyboardist," Tesh laughs. "That led to the thought of doing an all-sax album. The concept was mine, and the songs are all ones I've selected, putting together six of the best saxophone players in the country. That ought to be enough sax to satisfy her," he says. He also says, "I like to think of it as the ultimate makeout record." Tesh is playing weekend dates across the country, with expectant spouse Connie traveling along, until she gets too close to her June due date.

"I love having her with me. She's like the only critic I really trust and she's really helped me with my stage show. She'll tell me her reaction to this or that song without worrying about hurting my feelings too much. She's brutally honest."

Yabba dabba doo! Look for the theme song from "The Flintstones" to become a hot disk when that Steven Spielberg-produced feature hits theaters this summer. The title track, an updated version of the cartoon theme, was produced by super-producer Don Was and performed by the B-52s. Since the last Was/B-52s collaborations netted such top-10 hits as "Love Shack" and "Good Stuff," the industry buzz is that this song also will be a smash.

Diamonds also are a boy's good friend. Dave Pirner of Soul Asylum got into the glittering movie-star mood when he accompanied flame Winona Ryder to the Oscars last month. Winona was asked to select Harry Winston jewels (loans!) to wear at the Academy Awards. She picked out small diamond earrings and a straight-line diamond bracelet and necklace. Dave, who was along for the selection (done in private, with photos of the gems provided by the jeweler), then asked if he could have some sapphire and diamond cuff links — valued at about \$20,000 — to sport for the big night. The company was quick to oblige. After all, he's a big star, too.

Supermodel Elle MacPherson says that one area of show business she won't try is music. At least, not with her own pipes. "I used to dream I'd be a singer, but I have a really terrible voice," she admits. Of course, any number of admiring band members would probably be only too glad to have her shake their tambourines. Elle, of course, has recently branched into the movie world with "Sirens," in addition to having a new workout video due out and a lingerie line of her own in Australia.

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Cinema

STARTING THIS WEEK: "FLESH AND BONE" (Paramount): Real-life spouses Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan have worked together before ("Innerspace," "D.O.A."), but they have particularly meaty and uncharacteristic roles in this drama from writer-director Steve Kloves ("The Fabulous Baker Boys"). They play a romantically involved couple with a link in their pasts; James Caan and the highly notable Gwyneth Paltrow co-star. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"MR. JONES" (Columbia/Tri-Star): In a drama that he spent many years getting off the ground as one of its executive producers, Richard Gere stars as a manic depressive who becomes involved with his therapist (Lena Olin). Reuniting Gere with "Internal Affairs" director Mike Figgis, the result is uneven, though the actor captures the requisite mood swings well; Anne Bancroft also appears. ** (R: AS, P)

"ANOTHER STAKEOUT" (Touchstone): Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez reprise their roles from their 1987 comedy in this amusing sequel, with police detectives Chris and Bill getting a new female partner in an assistant D.A. (Rosie O'Donnell), who joins them to pose as a family in searching for a missing trial witness. Madeleine Stowe, who co-starred in the first film, has a cameo here. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "THE AGE OF INNOCENCE" (Columbia/Tri-Star): Director Martin Scorsese's acclaimed, lavishly filmed adaptation of the Edith Wharton novel traces the 19th-century romance of two privileged Americans (Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer), in spite of the man's engagement to another lady (recent Oscar nominee Winona Ryder). The true show-stealer is Miriam Margulies, playing a society doyenne. *** (PG: AS, P)

"THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES" (Fox): Though it seems a bit like a high-school-play version of the classic TV series, with Jim Varney assuming the Jed Clampett role associated so closely with Buddy Ebsen (just as one example), this update does yield some laughs. Cloris Leachman is Granny and Erika Eleniak and Diedrich Bader play Elly May and Jethro... but Lily Tomlin makes a great Jane Hathaway. ** (PG: AS, P, V)

"FEARLESS" (Warner): Rosie Perez earned an Oscar nomination for it, but Jeff Bridges is just as superb in director Peter Weir's ("Witness") drama of plane-crash survivors who have trouble coming to grips with the fact that they're still alive, while others perished. Isabella Rossellini also stars in the film, one of the last to be produced by the late Mark Rosenberg ("Presumed Innocent"). *** (R: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "BATMAN: MASK OF THE PHANTASM" (Warner, Apr. 26): The animated, feature-length adventure pits the Caped Crusader against yet another master fiend. (PG)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

New Jordanian company signs agreement with tobacco giant

THE NEW private cigarette manufacturer, International Tobacco and Cigarette Company (ITC), signed an agreement to manufacture Rothmans King Size Filter cigarettes under licence in Jordan. At a ceremony in Amman's Marriott Hotel last week, Mr Tawfiq Fakhouri, Chairman of ITC said the agreement marked a major step in the development of both ITC and the Jordanian Cigarette market. He said it would save hard currency, decrease illegal importation and secure new jobs.

Mr Steven James, Rothmans's Middle East Managing Director, saw the agreement as another indication of the close friendship between two nations. He added, "As a British Company, Rothmans International is particularly proud of its long association with the Kingdom of Jordan and its people who have been such loyal customers for our products over many years." ITC was formed in 1992 by a group of independent businessmen under the leadership of Mr Tawfiq Fakhouri. At present in Jordan, cigarettes can only be obtained from one manufacturer or through importation. ITC's forthcoming entry into the market promises to give smokers a wider choice of brands than ever before. The company will employ the very latest manufacturing technology and will possess a highly skilled and trained workforce to match. The products will meet the very highest international standards of quality.

Approximately 600, new jobs will be created by ITC, in addition, locally produced high quality cigarettes will help stop the practice of illegal importation of international cigarettes. The current loss to customs, estimated at \$20 million annually, will be reduced substantially.

The agreement with Rothmans will provide ITC with a link to one of the largest tobacco groups in the world. Rothmans International markets and manufactures a wide range of famous international brand cigarette names including Dunhill, Cartier, Peter Stuyvesant and Craven as well as Rothmans King Size Filter.

ITC's factory and offices are located 17 kilometers South of Amman. The site occupies an area of 53,000 square meters and is surrounded by scenic countryside.

The factory is equipped with the latest machinery and technology to manufacture cigarettes of the highest international standard. The latest training techniques are being used to develop the skills, abilities and expertise of the new work force. The cigarettes produced will provide the Jordanian smoker with unrivalled quality.

In addition to cigarette production, ITC also aims to develop the country's capacity to grow high quality tobacco leaf. ITC will also import special ovens and use modern techniques of tobacco processing, this will replace the traditional methods and result in improved quality and standards of blending.

ITC Board of directors comprises of nine members.

Tawfiq Fakhouri—Chairman
Tharwat Al Barghouti—Vice President
HE Doctor Rajai Al Mousasher
Mohammad Samih Barakat—Bank of Jordan Representative



Tawfiq Fakhouri (left) of ITC with Rothman's Steven James

Talal Mari—Managing Director
Khaled Alayan
Nagi Al Hamshari
Yahya Al Kadamany
Khaled Al Kourdi

Rothmans International is one of the world's largest tobacco groups. The company provides a wide range of well known brand of cigarettes, cigars and smoking tobaccos for distribution and sale in 160 countries. Worldwide, the group's companies operate 47 factories and employ over 20,000 people.

Rothmans international comprises of five principal operation companies:
— Rothmans Americas.
— Rothmans Of Pall Mall (Asia)
— Rothmans International Europe BV
— Rothmans Holdings Ltd (covering the Pacific and Australian)
— Rothmans Of Pall Mall (International) Ltd.

Rothmans Of Pall Mall (International) operates in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, India, Pakistan and all duty free markets worldwide. Extensive local manufacturing and licensing agreements already exist—Within the region: Yemen, Egypt, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey and India.

Tobacco International, the respected tobacco magazine recently said of the company: "Although Rothmans—the brand and the company—is synonymous with tobacco in most of the world, Rothmans International maintains a quiet professional profile. However you describe Rothmans, it's a style that deserves admiration." ■

★ In the Stars ★

ARIES (21 March-19 April): Consider your alternatives carefully and make your move. That's true in romance, also.

TAURUS (20 April-20 May): Finish up your work you've been avoiding, especially re: sports activities. If you're pressured by bossy types stall.

GEMINI (21 May-21 June): Social activities could encroach upon your duties. Don't destroy your savings to get trendy goodies.

CANCER (22 June-22 July): A boss may almost push you too far on. Show compassion and don't slap back. Look for a good financial opportunity.

LEO (23 July-22 August): A good time for travel, but there's a bureaucratic matter to handle first. It'll get more expensive if you put it off.

VIRGO (23 August-22 September): A friend could help you solve a financial problem, so ask. There'll be more pressure, but don't worry.

LIBRA (23 September-23 October): Pay attention at work. The most important part of the assignment may be implied, not stated. An excellent time for group activities.

SCORPIO (24 October-21 November): Work hard the first part of this week. You should be able to start picking the fruits of your labors soon.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): Apply for financing. You might think of a neat way to use it. A time to return to reality. Finish work that's piled up.

CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): Focus on a domestic issue or matters could go from bad to worse. Financial decisions made this week will last, so take care.

AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): A good week for learning, but some other kind of work could take precedence. Postpone a decision and consult a partner first.

PISCES (19 February-20 March): Money may try to burn a hole in your pocket. If you wait, you'll make a more sensible purchase. Volunteer for extra work.

If you were born this week:

In domestic matters, a major irritant is a lesson in disguise. Face a challenge in romance and a solid relationship's your reward. Your stubbornness comes in handy this year. Use it to build something that will last forever. You're a lucky winner. Romance, travel and money are favored. Learn to get along with everybody, and you'll profit later.

JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Maximizing the safety

♠ A1073
♥ J87
♦ AK3
♣ AQ9

♠ 95
♥ Q964
♦ Q82
♣ J1064

♠ Q64
♥ AK102
♦ 96
♣ K532

♠ KJ82
♥ 52
♦ J10754
♣ 87

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

Final contract: 4♠ by South
The Lead: ♥4

West	North	East	South
Pass	Double	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥ (*)	Pass	2N
Pass	4♠	Pass	End

The National Festival is still running at the Jordan Bridge Association. This hand came up during the third session of the open pairs event. Lubna El Saleen sitting south facing her sister Hanan Jumean together reached the reasonable contract of four spades.

One diamond was precision and 2♥ later on the bidding showed eighteen or more points from the balancing seat. On the heart lead East with the ten and continued heart and another. Lubna ruffed in her own hand. How would you go on?

Safety plays are rarely applied in the pairs competitions, you only apply them when you release that you reached a good contract that is hard to reach on the other tables.

Lubna played a diamond to the Ace, finessed the spade Jack, played a spade to the Ace, cashed the diamond king and exited with the last diamond from dummy. Whatever West played the contract is safe.

This is not an absolute safety play, but it is a sort of since refusing the diamond finesse maximize your chance under some distribution.

WORD WISE

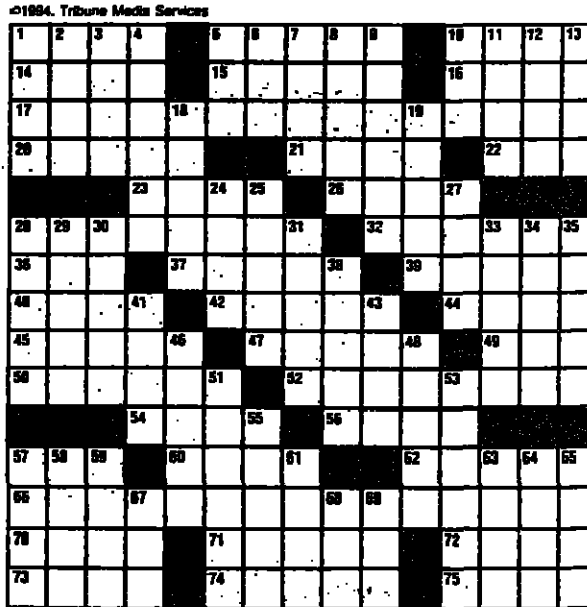
Q: I came across a word I legitimate word. According to never saw before and won't Webster's Collegiate Dictionary if the writer made it up, it means, "slangy speech as a play on words. The word — or writing."

A: A noun blending slang: Word Wise to P.O. Box 4367, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4367.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Young kids | DOWN | 30 Admit |
| 1 Across | 42 Partner for penance | 1 | 31 Nostrils |
| 5 Small drum | 44 Before | 2 | 32 Door joint |
| 10 Melville | 46 Ready cop | 3 | 33 Fragrant compound |
| 14 heart | 47 Aerics | 4 | 34 Staggers |
| 15 Quickly | 48 Solidify | 5 | 35 Takes a breather |
| 18 Anderson of "WKRP" | 50 Negation | 6 | 41 Recipe word |
| 17 Flower of the fly | 52 Speaks imperfectly | 7 | 43 Mr. Kenton |
| 20 Land — (petal) | 54 Certain breads | 8 | 44 Final word |
| 21 German region | 56 Knife of old | 9 | 45 Daub |
| 22 Dot of land: Fr. | 57 Stupid fellow | 10 | 46 Skimmed a book |
| 23 Mealy | 60 Gilt | 11 | 47 Throaten |
| 24 Pen points | 62 Carrot cousin | 12 | 48 Gaze |
| 26 Knish | 64 Handy man | 13 | 49 Sturdy |
| 27 TV news name | 71 Clear the blackboard | 14 | 50 Opened a bit |
| 28 Common verb | 72 Applaud | 15 | 51 Room in a case |
| 37 "Pomp and circumstance" composer | 73 Carry on home | 16 | 52 Israel |
| 38 Cacophony | 74 Jet wing shape | 17 | 53 Useless |
| | 75 Weird | 18 | 54 Glimpse |
| | | 19 | 55 Glimpse |
| | | 20 | 56 W/II vessel |
| | | 21 | 57 Souchong |

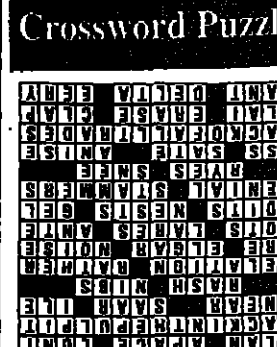


FEELIN' FIT!

If you're in a car accident and walk away unharmed, your body may be fooling you. Oftentimes, soft tissue damage results which you are not aware until days or weeks later when various shooting pains emanate from joints and muscles. Following any trauma, such as an auto accident, consult your physician for a checkup.

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Crossword Puzzle



Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Amman, suivez le guide...

● La municipalité est pratiquement parvenue au terme de son grand projet: donner un nom aux 7 000 rues de la capitale! Ce défi aux habitudes s'accompagne de la numérotation de chaque maison et à la publication de plans de la ville. La municipalité va ainsi éditer 13 plans détaillés d'Amman où l'on pourra, enfin, découvrir son adresse.

Certains voies - comme la fameuse "Garden Street" - ont dû être renommées... déclenchant le mécontentement de leurs riverains. Surtout, lorsque les noms usuels ont été réattribués à d'autres rues! Les services publics ont déjà été contactés pour les encourager à utiliser cette localisation inédite.

Ce vaste projet municipal a commencé à la fin de 1992. Dans quelques mois, une brochure intitulée "Guide étendu d'Amman" sera publiée en arabe et en anglais. A la fin de l'année prochaine, chaque ruelle devra avoir sa plaque patronymique. Espérons qu'une formation accélérée soit offerte aux chauffeurs de taxi!



Visite

Pisani met au défi le monde arabe

Président de l'Institut du monde arabe, Edgard Pisani était en Jordanie pour nouer des contacts dans une grande "tournee inventaire" et trouver des réponses aux questions sur l'identité arabe. Projets et enjeux.

"LE MONDE arabe? C'est un passé immense. C'est un avenir sûrement considérable et un présent incertain. Ou pas de présent...". Avec cette phrase provocante, Edgard Pisani a conclu son intervention au Centre culturel royal. A la tête de l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) à Paris, depuis 1988, cet ancien ministre de Georges Pompidou et François Mitterrand est aujourd'hui au cœur des débats et défis qui secouent l'identité arabe.

Pour nouer des liens directs entre le "paquet" du quai Saint Bernard (voir encadré ci-contre) et la réalité sur le terrain, Edgard Pisani a décidé de visiter chacun des 22 pays associés à l'IMA dans une grande tournée. Première étape: la Jordanie. "Je fais l'inventaire de ce qui peut être présenté à Paris de la civilisation arabe. Je ne veux omettre aucun élément culturel et l'IMA n'a pas, jusqu'à présent, fait la place qu'elle mérite à la Jordanie".

Pour mener à bien son enquête, en trois petits jours, l'agenda d'Edgard Pisani était plus chargé: rencontres avec des créateurs, des intellectuels, les autorités, les médias... Et déjà des projets concrets. Se distinguant par leur "travail remarquable", la Galerie nationale et la Fondation Shoman vont bientôt collaborer avec l'IMA.

Promouvoir l'art contemporain arabe est, pour le président de l'Institut, l'occasion de briser les clichés: "Pour les Occidentaux, le monde arabe est plus un motif de préoccupations et l'endroit de production du pétrole qu'un lieu de création de la civilisation d'aujourd'hui. Montrer la créativité de la jeune génération, c'est révéler la culture

arabe dans sa modernité". L'IMA possède déjà un département d'art moderne et souhaite organiser une manifestation avec des artistes venus des quatre coins du Maghreb et du Machrek.

Le Royaume hachémite avec ses châteaux perdus dans les sables va aussi trouver une place dans la prochaine grande exposition. Thème: le désert. "De l'océan Indien à l'Atlantique, c'est l'élément commun. Le lien singulier du monde arabe", souligne Edgard Pisani. "C'est particulièrement inséré quantités d'artistes locaux comme occidentaux". Inauguration dans deux ans.

Les grandes expositions sont l'occasion de faire connaître l'IMA au plus grand nombre. La collection égyptienne, il y a deux ans, et la présentation syrienne, cette année, furent avec 400 000 visiteurs des succès d'envergure. Dans une ville où les centres et les événements culturels sont légion, cette affluence marque, pour le maître des lieux, "une curiosité, un intérêt et un respect significatifs pour la civilisation arabe".

Après cette ambitieuse évocation du désert, Edgard Pisani songe à une présentation des trésors omeyyades. Dans celle-ci, les dernières découvertes effectuées en Jordanie, en particulier des éléments mobiliers, pourront s'exposer. Enfin, Pétra. Il y a quelques mois, elle était déjà l'hôte d'honneur de l'IMA avec une exposition photographique à l'occasion de la publication du "Dit des Pierres". Cette évocation de la cité nabatéenne est pourtant jugée "insuffisante". Gageons donc que Pétra revendra dévotement ses charmes sur les bords de Seine.

Au cours de sa tournée, le président de l'IMA ne veut pas seule-

ment répertorier des objets susceptibles d'être montrés au public. Il cherche aussi à provoquer un débat sur les notions d'identité et de civilisation arabe. Quelles sont les limites du monde arabe? Aujourd'hui et hier? Quelle place faire au mode de vie actuel à côté de l'héritage culturel du passé? Autant de réponses à trouver, de difficultés à contourner.

Edgard Pisani n'a pas éludé les nombreux problèmes auxquels il est quotidiennement confronté dans sa gestion d'une institution culturelle unique au monde. Les susceptibilités politiques ne sont jamais loin dans une association où seuls des gouvernements sont membres! Au premier chef, l'écueil financier est de taille... Edgard Pisani préfère jeter un voile pudique sur cette question, sans nier son ampleur.

Il souffre aussi de l'absence d'interlocuteurs panarabes: "Une des difficultés, c'est

l'extraordinaire dispersion, le manque d'organisation, des éléments de l'héritage culturel arabe. Il est surprenant, et parfois désagréable, d'être ceux qui doivent aider le monde arabe à révéler ses propres richesses".

Le problème de fond est la contradiction interne du monde arabe entre son désir d'unité et sa réalité éclatée en Etats concurrents ou même hostiles. "A l'Institut, nous avons appris qu'il est stupide de nier l'unité, comme il est inutile de nier la diversité. Mais, c'est difficile à gé-



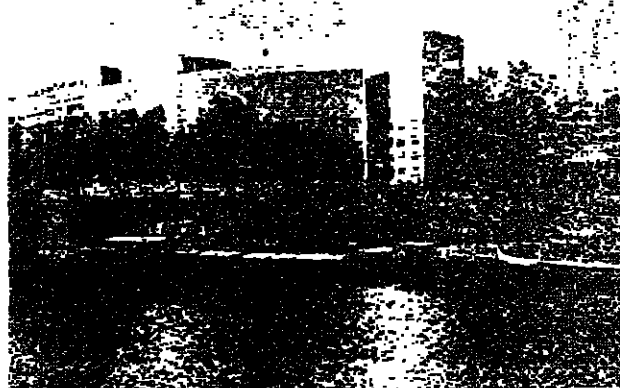
Edgard Pisani est président de l'Institut du monde arabe à Paris depuis 1988. Son grand dessin: la création d'un "musée en images".

er". De même, la question religieuse est à manipuler avec précaution. "Le monde arabe est musulman et nous le présentons comme tel. Mais, l'IMA n'est pas une institution islamique. Nous voulons présenter la réalité d'une société et non la révélation d'un texte". En étant le lieu de rencontre, de dialogue, entre deux civilisations, cet institut met le doigt précisément là où ça fait mal. Il œuvre aussi pour inscrire cette culture méditerranéenne dans la modernité.

Face au déferlement d'images venues d'outre-Atlantique, Edgard Pisani souhaite allumer un contre-feu. "Bientôt n'existeront dans le monde que les civilisations qui auront su donner d'elles-mêmes une expression visuelle ou plutôt télévisuelle", prévient-il. C'est pourquoi, son grand dessin est de créer un "musée en images". L'étude est déjà en route. Prises de vues, classement, commentaires: l'œuvre à accomplir est énorme. Le défi exaltant. ■

Florent Chevolleau

Un immeuble au long cours



DEPUIS 1987, un bâtiment d'aluminium et de verre a accosté quai Saint-Bernard, le long de la Seine, au cœur de Paris. A l'extrémité du boulevard Saint-Germain, ce curieux paquebot immobile est devenu un point de repère évident du paysage de la capitale. Sa proue, gigantesque et translucide, se dresse comme un point de ponctuation entre deux eaux, deux tissus urbains. A son bord, embarquement pour l'Orient...

L'extrémité de cet immeuble au long cours est formée d'un cylindre de marbre blanc, la tour des livres. Les ouvrages disposés sur les rayonnages se laissent deviner de l'extérieur, au travers de la façade transparente. Le flanc nord, élégamment galbé, est tourné vers le Paris historique. Il reflète les harmonies changeantes de la Seine et des immeubles en pierre de taille de l'île Saint-Louis.

Côté sud, l'architecte a imaginé une variation "high-tech" du moucharabieh. Une cellule photo-électrique ouvre et ferme de larges diaphragmes métalliques, dosant la lumière en fonction de ses variations. A ses pieds, le parvis reprend le thème décoratif de cette paroi fascinante. Touche jordannienne: une imposante sculpture en marbre de Mona Saudi trône sur le dallage.

Passées les parois de verre du hall, le passager entre dans un jeu subtil d'ombres et de clarté dévoilant les trésors de la culture arabe. Le parcours à travers les ascenseurs vitrés - qui comme les escaliers semblent suspendus dans le vide - est une promenade dans l'espace. Avec cet édifice de métal et lumière, l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) est un écrin à nul autre pareil.

La nécessité d'un tel lieu de dialogue avec la culture arabe est apparue dès le lendemain de la seconde Guerre Mondiale. Le Général de Gaulle l'envisageait. Le 27 octobre 1974, le gouvernement de Jacques Chirac décide sa création. L'acte de fondation entre la France et les vingt ambassadeurs des pays arabes (depuis l'Egypte et la Libye ont rejoint l'organisation) est signé six ans plus tard.

C'est Jean Nouvel et Architecture Studio qui sont désignés pour concrétiser ce carrefour culturel au bord de la Seine. Sur 9 étages et 26 900 m² de surface totale, l'IMA est aujourd'hui à l'étroit. Débarassé de sa réputation de "splendide coquille vide", son nombre de visiteurs gonfle de 10% chaque année et ses activités se multiplient.

Aujourd'hui, une "catastrophe" le guette: l'arrivée de 40 000 ouvrages arabes classiques. Ce don doublera pratiquement le volume de la bibliothèque de l'IMA. Dans cette section phare se retrouvent déjà chaque jour près de 800 lecteurs. A mesure que la croisière culturelle s'enrichit, le quai Saint-Bernard risque d'attirer de plus en plus de candidats à l'évasion. ■

F.C.

Jordanie Express

COMMERCE
L'Ambassadeur de Belgique et le ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce se sont mis d'accord pour la création à Amman du Centre Euro-Information chargé de promouvoir le commerce entre la Jordanie et l'Europe. Ce centre devrait ouvrir ses portes en juin dans les locaux de la JEDCO. L'aide financière est fournie par la Belgique.

AQABA - Une patrouille de la marine américaine a empêché l'accès au port d'Aqaba à un navire polonais transportant des pièces détachées pour tracteurs à destination de l'Irak. C'est le quatorzième bâtiment à faire demi-tour depuis le début de l'année. Peu de temps avant, un navire chargé de papier avait dû aussi rebrousser chemin.

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L'IMA en activités

"PONT CULTUREL" entre les civilisations, l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA) est une association de droit privé comprenant 22 Etats arabes plus la France. Situé en plein Paris, il est devenu en 7 ans un lieu incontournable de la capitale. Preuve de son succès: le million de visiteurs annuels.

● **La bibliothèque.** Riche de plus de 50 000 ouvrages et 1 000 titres périodiques, elle la collection la plus complète au monde en publications arabes récentes. Ses services de grande qualité (système d'information automatisé, accès direct au fonds...) attirent 12 000 lecteurs mensuels. La bibliothèque organise périodiquement le Salon euro-arabe du livre, lieu de rencontre privilégié entre auteurs, éditeurs et intellectuels.

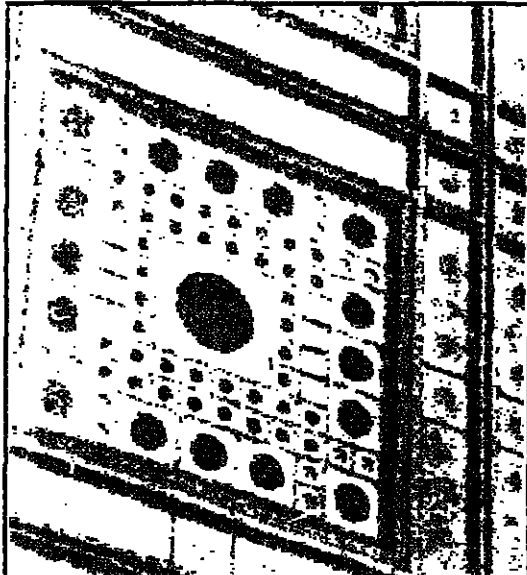
● **Le musée.** Après avoir accueilli les collections d'archéologie orientale du Louvre jusqu'en 1993, l'Institut présente sa propre collection et des œuvres de jeunes peintres et sculpteurs dans son département d'art moderne.

Selon une politique nouvelle, il souhaite devenir "Le musée des musées arabes" en recevant, pour une période d'un ou deux ans, les pièces entières dans les réserves des musées arabes et donc inaccessibles au public.

● **Les expositions.** Tous les deux ans, l'IMA présente une manifestation d'envergure. Après l'Egypte, la Syrie tient la vedette pour quelques semaines encore. Ces deux expositions ont attiré chacune 400 000 curieux. La prochaine sera consacrée au désert. Des présentations plus modestes se succèdent périodiquement. A l'affiche en septembre: "Eugène Delacroix et le Maroc".

● **Les débats.** Au rythme de deux ou trois rencontres publiques par semaine, pendant l'année scolaire, les "Séances de l'IMA" abordent tous les thèmes dans des débats ouverts, francs et parfois rudes. L'Institut conçoit et accueille de nombreux colloques euro-arabes et même une "Chaire de l'IMA" a été mise sur pied.

● **L'audiovisuel.** L'espace Image et Son propose



15 000 diapositives, des photos, des films, des enregistrements classés par thèmes et par pays, qui sont accessibles grâce à dix postes de consultation automatisés. L'unité Ciné-IMA organise la projection d'avant-premières liées au cinéma arabe, ainsi que des hommages à des grands cinéastes ou à des acteurs. Depuis 1992 existe la Biennale des cinémas arabes.

● **Les publications.** Le trimestriel "Al Moukharraf" est la première revue pédagogique en arabe et en anglais. Il est publié en collaboration avec l'Education nationale. L'IMA édite aussi des catalogues d'expositions, des ouvrages de référence, des dossiers et le magazine culturel "Qantara" ("la passerelle" en arabe).

● **Les actions extérieures.** L'Institut sort du plus en plus de ses murs du quai Saint-Bernard, tout d'abord avec des expositions itinérantes dans toute la France. Pour toucher le plus grand nombre, il est déjà présent sur les ondes de radio et bientôt il sera sur les écrans de télévision. ■

Analyse

Les perspectives de la paix

Avec la paix, Glenn Robinson, prévoit un boom économique et des avancées démocratiques pour le Royaume.

GLENN ROBINSON, professeur de l'université de Californie, en visite en Jordanie, a développé les conséquences positives du processus de paix sur le Royaume dans une conférence organisée par Al Urdun Al Jadid...

Sans omettre les aspects négatifs. Du point de vue économique, ce chercheur spécialisé dans le Moyen-Orient estime qu'un règlement du conflit israélo-arabe conduira la rive occidentale du Jourdain à une prospérité sans précédent.

Ce décollage économique devrait attirer de nombreux Palestiniens exilés, notamment les résidents des camps de réfugiés en Jordanie. Conséquence: une réduction du taux de chômage de ce côté du fleuve. Pourtant, certains redoutent une hégémonie israélienne sur l'économie jordanienne et plus largement sur toute la région. "Depuis 1967, l'économie des Territoires occupés est liée et colonisée par Israël", reconnaît Glenn Robinson. "Par conséquent, l'Etat hébreu pourrait se servir de cette implantation pour infiltrer les marchés jordanien,

syrien et irakien". Pour le professeur américain, en cas de déroute économique en Cisjordanie, le risque sera grand de voir les ouvriers palestiniens émigrer vers la Jordanie.

Sur le plan politique, Glenn Robinson prédit un coup de fouet à la démocratisation du Royaume après l'aboutissement du processus de la paix. Selon lui, les avancées démocratiques sont restées, jusqu'à présent, trop limitées: "La voie du processus démocratique est suivie tant qu'elle ne remet pas en cause les structures traditionnelles, les bases du pouvoir. Si les gens au pouvoir se sentent menacés, ils n'hésitent pas à prendre des mesures immédiates. Ils l'ont déjà fait".

Avec la signature d'un accord entre Israël et la Jordanie, la pression populaire devrait s'accroître pour plus de démocratie. Pour le chercheur américain, la question est de savoir quel sera "le degré de mobilisation et la force des couches défavorisées?". Autre point d'interrogation: la réaction des privilégiés. ■

S.K.

Université

Yarmouk, la francophile

La France offre une "oreille" au Yarmouk: une parabole satellite pour compléter la culture francophone des 350 étudiants du département de langues modernes.

LE DÉPARTEMENT de langues modernes de l'Université du Yarmouk s'ouvre sur le monde.

Grâce au Service culturel de l'Ambassade de France, il vient de se doter d'une parabole satellite. Un plus pour les 350 étudiants ayant choisi d'étudier la langue de Molière.

"Pour eux, c'est une occasion unique d'entendre parler français et d'avoir un accès à la culture française", précise Ghazi Haddad, directeur du département.

Créé en 1985, ce département de langues est aujourd'hui un des plus cotés de l'université. Il reçoit chaque année une promotion de 120 étudiants désireux d'obtenir leur Bachelor of Arts (Licence) en langue française. La réception de TV5 et de CFI en son sein sera particulièrement utile pour enrichir les cours sur la civilisation, la culture et les institutions françaises.

"La plupart des étudiants du département de langues ont la chance de partir en France pour au moins quinze jours grâce aux bourses attribuées par le Service culturel", souligne Ghazi Haddad. Selon lui, la demande des jeunes Jordaniens pour apprendre le français est croissante, même si les débouchés demeurent limités.

Après leurs quatre années d'études, les étudiants ont vocation d'enseigner dans les établissements



L'Ambassadeur de France, Bernard Bajole, a visité le campus en compagnie, entre autres, de Ghazi Haddad (à l'extrême gauche).

publics ou privés où les places sont rares. Mais, la connaissance de la langue française est toujours un plus pour entrer dans la fonction publique. Le département s'enorgueillit aussi d'avoir formé la majorité des guides francophones du Royaume et certains journalistes de la télévision jordanienne.

Bernard Bajole, l'Ambassadeur de France, a profité de l'événement, dimanche dernier, pour visiter le campus et inaugurer la semaine du cinéma français. Il a aussi découvert le musée d'histoire naturelle et celui d'archéologie.

Dans ce dernier domaine, la France et le Yarmouk collaborent déjà activement sur plusieurs projets de restauration. ■

F.C.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Plaza Cinema	699238
American Centre Library	820101	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
British Council	6361478	Dar Al Founon	
French Cultural Centre	637009	Sports Clubs	
Goethe Institute	641993		
Russian Cultural Centre	641158	Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049	Orthodox Club	810491
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Haya Arts Centre	665195	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Husseini Youth City	667181/5	Royal Chess Club	673713
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Y.W.M.A.	664251	Jordan Bridge Assoc.	676990
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571	Amman Mun. Library	63711
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Danish Consulate Gen.	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
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Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
Icelandic Consulate	698851
Indian	637262
Indonesian	828911
Israeli	639331
Irish Consulate Gen.	625632
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Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
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New Zealand Consulate	636720
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	827926
Omani	686155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	682666
Romanian	667738
Russian	641158
Saudi Arabian	814514/6
Sir Lanka, Consulate	645312
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	614166/9
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Taiwan	671530
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
U.A.E.	643347/643341
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American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Midland	694802
British Airways	641430
Cathay Pacific	628596
China Airlines	636232
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KLM	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
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Philippine Airlines	640200
PIA	625981
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Saudia	604499
Scandinavian Airlines	676177
Singapore Airlines	694501
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Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
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Thai Airways	637195
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200

Rent-a-car

Al Andalusiah	606821
Al Barakeh	687988
Al-Jabal	606669
Al-Waha	674105
Avis	699420
Budget	604230
Dirani	660601
Europcar	601350/80
National	639197/8
Petra	605501
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Highway Police	787111

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Akleh Maternity	642441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Arny, Marka	891611/15
Husseini Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaladi Maternity	644381/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
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Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
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Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabal Weldeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Call The Star on 645880 to update your phone number on this page

Aqaba Hotels

Al-Cazar	314131
Aqaba	314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel	316636
Aquamarina I	316250
Coral Beach	313521
Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340

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THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOTES

Edited & prepared by Zeid Nasser

Computer Companies:

You are invited to share your news and views with our readers. Call us at 652380 or fax us at 648298.

Growth rates of 139 percent for the Middle East and Africa:

Informix targets Jordan

Editor's Note: Autographics, authorized distributors of Informix in Jordan, held an Informix Seminar last Sunday. Autographics, represented by Sales Manager, Mr. Ayman Arafah, hosted the seminar, which was attended by Mr. Bernard Dolan and Mr. Roger Chedwick of Informix; and Mr. Fawaz Alami of Infoserv, the Informix regional office.

The Star's Zeid Nasser talked to Mr. Bernard Dolan, Area Manager for the Middle East and Africa and Mr. Fawaz Alami, Regional Director of Infoserv, the Informix regional office responsible for Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Experts follow.

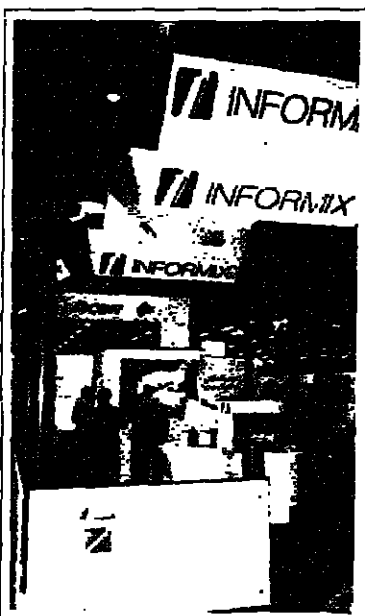
Tell us about the reasons for your growth in the Middle East.

As people have moved to Open Systems, we've given them the opportunity to get their feet into the water, thanks to our dual strategy.

We are the only ones in the market with a dual database strategy. We provide standard engines for small systems and on-line systems, providing high performance mission-critical solutions.

What we have done is ship to

thousands of new clients in the region. In fact, we've achieved a growth rate of 139 percent for the Middle East and Africa.



developed our software to meet performance standards. We've released version 6.0 which it's actually a re-architected version of our database management system and which hardware companies have chosen for their benchmark tests. We have also encouraged developers using Informix by providing them with the necessary development tools. That has also helped.

Open Systems is the trend and Informix is strong enough to lead this trend. Now that the field of RDBMS (Relational Database Management Systems) is growing, we are expecting a growth of some 50 to 70 percent.

How has Informix managed to challenge Oracle, a major supplier in database management systems supplier in our region?

We have achieved this by basically giving our clients more choices. We have a number of solutions on offer, we're following a dual strategy and we're the only credible competitor to Oracle.

Now, with version 6.0 of Informix On-line, we've also got higher performance. Not to mention the heavier emphasis in marketing.

I would say, at the moment, that Oracle are falling behind on the technology and spending a lot of effort on marketing.

How does the Informix

Abjad Hawaz Dictionary for Windows

ARABIC INFORMATION Systems (InfoArab) have released a new version of Abjad Hawaz Dictionary under Windows, following available versions of the product under MS-DOS and Apple Macintosh operating systems.

This is good news for Arabic computer users running Windows because you'll finally get a chance to find out meanings, synonyms, spelling and any derivatives of words.

Abjad Hawaz Dictionary is a morphologically based Arabic/English and English/Arabic Dictionary which provides you with the meanings of Arabic and English words relieving you from the burden of separating the suffixes and prefixes and getting the word root.

Abjad Hawaz Dictionary goes

beyond that to help you in case you are not quite sure of spelling of a word. It's helpful enough to suggest possible alternatives for you to choose from.

Abjad Hawaz offers Arabic and English Interfaces. On-Line Help and Windows features of copy, cut and paste the words from and to the dictionary.

InfoArab are marketing this dictionary as "the sole morphologically based Arabic/English and English/Arabic Dictionary." This is not necessarily true since Al Alamiah has had such a dictionary under Sakr Windows Arabization for sometime. Still, it is the first of its kind under Microsoft Windows.

However, there's a new dictionary under Windows called Al Mawrid which has recently made its debut.

On contacting Al Nasser Technical Services, they said they had Al Mawrid under Windows and that it was definitely a morphologically-based Arabic/English and English/Arabic dictionary.

This should escalate the competition even further, which is good to give Arabic computer users a choice of a comprehensive Arabic and English dictionary under Microsoft Windows.

We'll keep you posted on things happening in that area. If you'd like to give Abjad Hawaz a look, you can contact Arabic Information Systems (InfoArab) on the following address: Egypt-Cairo-PO Box 1733 Dokki. InfoArab can be reached on telephone (202) 3605707 and fax (202) 3608386. ■

News Update

Lotus User Group in the Middle East

● The first Lotus User Group has been set up in the Middle East, in conjunction with the Saudi Computer Show '94.

The chairman of the user group in Saudi Arabia, Blair Duncan, is very glad with Lotus' response to the setting up of the Lotus User Group and the fact that Lotus has shown a commitment.

The group's first meeting of 1994 took place earlier this month and was attended by representatives from over 20 different Saudi industries. It was also attended by the managing director of Lotus Middle East, Neil Hudspeth, and a number of other prominent figures in the Middle East IT industry.

Lotus themselves are also quite happy with this type of interaction between their company and the users.

Power '94 Expo.

● Ideal Systems, distributors for Apple Computers in Jordan, are holding their annual Apple Expo, this year called Power '94, from 4 and 5 May at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

This show has always been a big event for the Jordanian computer community, but this year

it's even more exciting because it will see the launch of the Power Macintosh systems in Jordan.

The Power Macintosh are Apple's PowerPC computer systems, which are expected to open a new chapter in computing by creating a new computer standard supported so far by IBM, Apple and a number of computer vendors interested in licensing the technology.

For more information on the Power '94 Expo, and the Power Macintosh systems, you can contact Ideal Systems at telephone number 676175.

Energy-Star products

● The Energy-Star standard, set by the US government to guarantee that computer products are environmentally friendly and save energy, is being met by some computer manufacturers.

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has announced two new monitors which conform with the Energy-Star standard for energy consumption.

These monitors actually save 80 percent of the energy used in regular HP monitors.

NCR's new PC, called the NCR 3227, is a 486 PC which conforms to the Energy-Star standard too.

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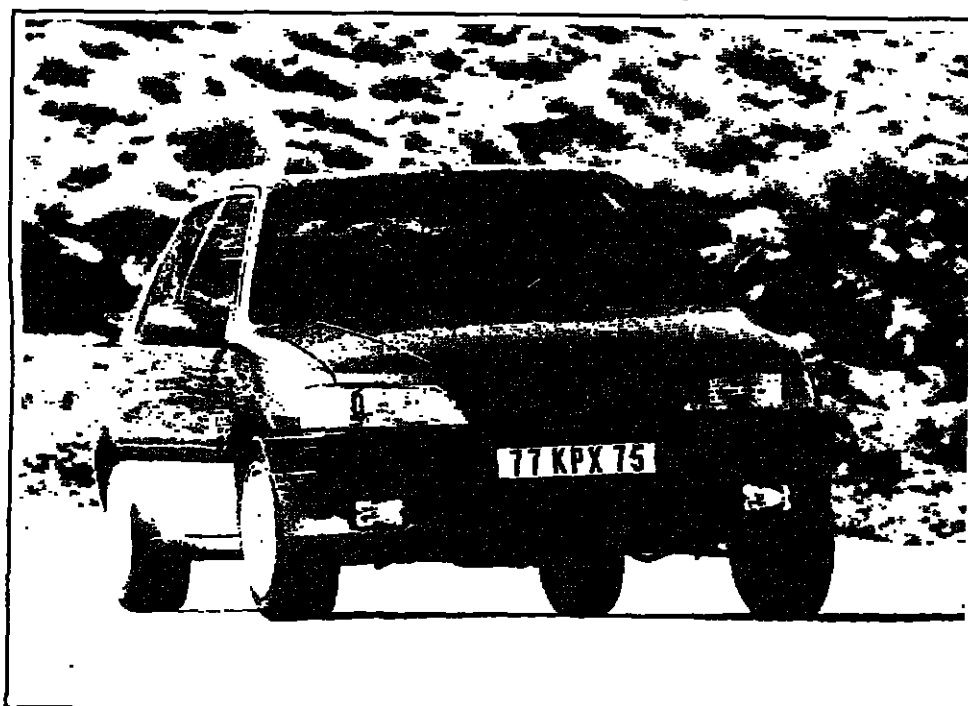
Peugeot 106's Griffé and XSi: Refined with more power and the right price tag

By Bilal Hijawi
Special to The Star

THE FRENCH company gave 1200 journalists and car experts keys to its Peugeot 106 Griffé and 106XSi to test drive them through Jordan, Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries. The Middle East became host to Peugeot's biggest-ever promotional program which lasted for three months. This week Jordanian journalists finished their assessment of Peugeot's new 106 models closing an Aqaba Petra loop.

Their opinion, well—Peugeot has outdone itself. Peugeot's 26 versions of the 106 range combine the two most important features consumers seek when they're ready for a new car purchase: the basics are there while the car's creature comfort amenities have not been compromised and the price is affordable.

Launched in September 1991, Peugeot produced 655,000 model 106s, with three and five doors and diesel and petrol engines. Peugeot's surprise however is their new luxury 106 Griffé, entering the French market in May 1994. Under the hood, Griffé is powered by a 90 horse power, 1587 cc engine. Offered in four special body finishes, it drives on 13 inch alloy wheels. Griffé comes with standard tinted windows—electric in the



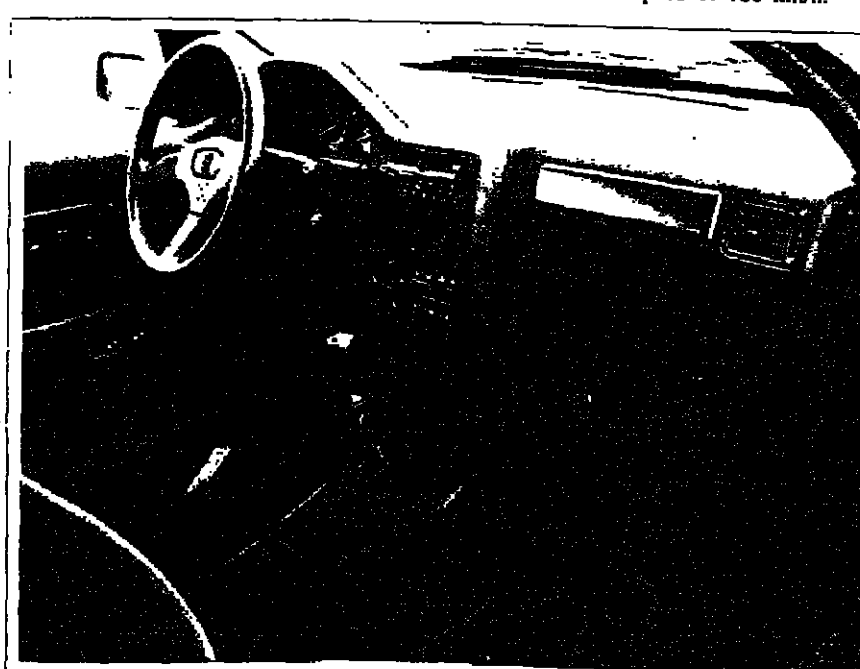
1994 Peugeot 106 XSi

front—and external rear view mirrors and the Griffé signature on the tailgate. Other features for the Griffé are leather seats with head restraints for front and back seats. The radio is another standard option and comes with four speakers. The car's engine thrusts the car to 100 kilometers/hour in 10.4 seconds allowing it a maximum speed of 180 km/h.

All this performance is made possible with an excellent fuel consumption ratio of 6.8 litres/100km.

For those who need more power in the Peugeot 106 model, the XSi should be their choice. First appearing in September 1991, with a 1360cc and 95 hp engine, the newly evolved XSi takes on a 1587cc powerplant giving 105 hp. Losing neither its name nor its original personality, the new 106 XSi has all it takes to satisfy the customer. Like an athlete dressed for the city, XSi hides its unleashed power under an elegantly discrete exterior, only to be given away by the telltale emblem on the hatch and its alloy wheels shod with their 175/60R14H tires. The XSi has a special waistline (front and rear bumpers, spot lamps, flared arches, rear spoiler), tinted and electric glass, heated external rear view mirrors, that give a very special feeling in the car's interior. Other options include a sun roof, radio and two sensor ABS. The car's maximum speed is 195 km/hr with an acceleration that registered a 10 second lapse from 0 to 100 km/hr. The 106 XSi is still an economy car. On average, its engine burns 7.6 litres/100km. Air conditioning options come CFC-free.

The sturdy character of this fiery saloon is emphasized by the leather-covered sports steering wheel, gear lever knob and gaiter, along with the carbon effect insert on the dashboard. ■



The interior of Peugeot's 106 XSi